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<https://www.groundreport.com/remembering-deceased-former-prime-minister-sushil-koirala/>

REMEMBERING DECEASED FORMER PRIME MINISTER SUSHIL KOIRALA

feb 10, 2016 | news, politics

The Nepal Government on Wednesday offered a state salute to the Late Former Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, who suddenly passed away at 24:50 on Tuesday. Late Koirala's personal physician Dr. Karabir Nath Yogi informed media of the cause of Koirala's death as pneumonia.

The Nepali media outlets have been highlighting available biographical notes to remember late Koirala. The two major remembrances about him have been associated with his non-corrupt political career and the recent promulgation of the long-awaited republican constitution under his prime ministership.

Comments

Appreciating late Koirala's non-corrupt political life is justice to him. Generally, leaders given to amassing wealth through nontransparent sources instead of serving public interests seem morally too weak to derive a moral lesson from late Koirala's moral standard. Equally worth remembering is his proven determination for the promulgation of the new constitution—now a reality.

However, the Nepali society does not find late Koirala distinct from the perspectives of leadership capacity—a deep-rooted and severe crisis in Nepal, where individuals in all sectors apparently over-ride the constitution and laws, intentionally jeopardizing the lives of the hand-to-mouth majority.

The 68-year old Nepali Congress (late Sushil Koirala became its President in 2010) has apparently lacked an intra-party democratic culture and a national vision for institutionalizing democracy. Individual money-mongering business contractors and brokers have completely taken over the party, incapacitating it to the roots. The worst are other dozens of groups who prefer to label themselves

as 'marxists' or 'communists'. These groups, determined to finish off one another, have never demonstrated even a common sense to chart out some party policies on vital public issues such as drinking water, education, health and public transport.

Having taken advantage of the moral and intellectual bankruptcy of the leading parties, monarchists and other rightists have begun to preach against the universal principles of human rights and democracy.

<https://www.groundreport.com/workers-plight-nepal-noncoordination-mind-matter/>

Workers' plight in Nepal: Noncoordination between mind and matter

May 1, 2016 | [News](#), [Opinion](#)

When observers can see ultra-ritualism in celebrating the May Day in the globe over-ruled by non-state money machines, power-maniac corporate media and lustful muscles—the major factors contemporaneously constituting the state character—they would perhaps prefer to question if political parties, especially those labeled as 'Communist' are pro-working class forces. The question is far acuter when it comes to Nepal, where there is an unpredictable number of 'communist' parties, most of them nominal in strength and social dialogue. I find it quite natural for Nepal's parties with the overwhelming ideology of free market economy to have sided with owners and wealth accumulators, who become extremely insensitive to the working class people, who produce a huge amount of wealth for them. But I find it extremely unnatural for Nepal's 'communist' parties to have been ardent agents of ultra-privatization when they rise to official power. Their betraying character has been tested positive time and again in Nepal. Hence the existence of higher frustration among the workers.

Nepal's leading parties, viz., the Nepali Congress, the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM), have not to date produced any pro-working class constitution and policies. Instead, they have already destroyed the national industrial infrastructures set up earlier, catapulting the nation into an absolute importer, with 99% dependence on India. Besides, they have adopted the policy of officially encouraging millions of Nepali workers, most of them unskilled and semi-skilled, to swarm to Gulf countries. The evidence for this argument can be found in the rationale of Nepal Government's *Foreign Employment Promotion Board* and the *Department of Foreign Employment*. Nepal Government and other NGOs heavily funded by human supply agencies publicize to encourage Nepali workers to go to Gulf countries. The passports of most of the Nepali workers in Gulf countries are seized at the airports and are returned only when they have to come back to Nepal. However,

none of the existing parties in Nepal ever like to raise this issue on behalf of the migrant workers, who are mostly in semi-bonded status.

Should there be any honest investigations in the future, they will prove that Nepal's owners of human supply agencies have far more money than the state itself. Who facilitated this situation?

While most active workers are swept up to Gulf countries, most talented brain workers are being supplied to America, Canada, Australia and European countries. There exists no environment conducive to economic, sociological and political research. Impact analysis is difficult.

Current wage level of Nepali workers is not corresponding to the norm of an adequate standard of living. Due to anarchic and exorbitant market prices, their life quality is on a constant decline.

Rich people can afford enough drinking water, completely privatized in the major cities of Nepal—a fact over which all parties remain absolutely silent. Workers find it highly challenging to afford enough drinking water.

Deprived of basic wages, social security and insurances, Nepali workers are the miserable ones.

The point is that matter is over the mind of Nepal's leaderships that seem to have lost the coordination between mind and matter. The Buddha, about 2,600 years ago, taught the society that when mind is over the matter, peace and happiness are possible. Today, Nepal's lustful politicking has exacerbated the sufferings of people. The noncoordination between mind and matter, according to the Buddha, results in the decay of life. Thus, those who lead people really need to understand the Law of Nature, i.e., the constant interplay between mind and material things.

<https://www.groundreport.com/may-29-tribute-sir-edmund-hillary-tenzing-norgay-sherpa/>

MAY-29 TRIBUTE TO SIR EDMUND HILLARY AND TENZING NORGAY SHERPA

may 29, 2016 | geopolitics, news

According to Siddhartha the Buddha, life comes into existence when mind and matter combine. His meaning was that the interaction of mind and matter produces energy that moves things and people. Nepal's Sherpas, the original mountain citizens, live at the foothills of the Mount Everest in the North of the country. Their mind frequently interacts with the Mount Everest. In overall terms, they are one with the snowy mountains. This was equally true in the 1950s. New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary's mind powerfully interacted with the Mount Everest. He joined an ambitious British Everest Expedition team under the leadership of John Hunt in 1953.

From material life perspectives, even the games of ignorance are sometimes very interesting and inspiring. The Buddha's teaching was to profoundly understand the Law of Nature—he called it Dhamma in Pali language—and mindfully unionize mind with it to become peaceful and happy. But it is true that human beings want to demonstrate to human beings by conquering the Nature. Human beings are hunters and explorers by their very nature. Siddhartha the Buddha emphasized on exploring within mind as the universal space, while normal people naturally stress on tangibility to quench their sensory thirsts.

The thirst to conquer the Mount Everest definitely was strong in Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. They conquered the Mount Everest at 11:30 in the morning of 29 May 1953, as historical records show. Their will power to be on the top peak of the world was far greater than their attention to save their life.

Remembering the historical May 29 is especially important for Nepalis, especially the Sherpas, and mountain lovers. Their conquest then attracted the attention of the world to Nepal's Mount Everest, measuring 29,864 feet (used satellite technology to measure it in 1987).

The Mount Everest was far more exposed to the international community through news media; consequently, international tourists began to flock to the Everest region. This flow of human beings became instrumental in developing Nepal's tourism, especially in the region of mountain Sherpas. Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa played a vital role in arousing curiosity among the explorers and adventurers in many parts of the world.

Currently, the Himalayan Trust (New Zealand) established by Sir Edmund Hillary himself and the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada are active in helping the Sherpa community in the Everest region in the sectors of education, health and environment.

Hillary passed away on 11 January 2008. Sherpa had passed away on May 9, 1986.

A hearty tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, the first ones to set foot on the peak of the Mount Everest!

<https://www.groundreport.com/right-speech-press-freedom-guidance-buddha/>

THE RIGHT SPEECH AND PRESS FREEDOM: GUIDANCE BY THE BUDDHA

may 3, 2016 | journalism, news

By principle, journalism is public. By practice, journalism today has gone more corporate. This is the crux of the matter for us to meditate on the theme of press freedom. In Nepal, porters (I am only comparing the figure) earn 10 times than journalists in general. Although there is a debate on whether journalism is a profession or a public service, there should be no doubt at all that even a full-time social worker must get a proper amount for living costs. A spirit of social work in journalism would be far better compared to that of a corporate house employee. As a corporate house employee, you will have to prove higher loyalty to the corporate mission of upsizing their profit, with a secondary thought to public interests. As a social worker, you will gain moral strength to prioritize public well-being that does not exclude media entrepreneurs in the very human sense.

What is press freedom?

Press freedom, philosophically, is a theoretical concept of representing the human right to freedom of expression and opinion. Practically, press freedom is a vital component of the democratic system.

The proper utilization of press freedom empowers people, not only with direct information dissemination but also with critical and analytical policy communication that lays pressures on state and non-state stakeholders in the country. But misuse of press freedom enslaves people, dullifies their mind and dehumanizes the political character of the nation.

Global campaign for press freedom mostly and most usually is focused on journalist safety, media's right to collect and disseminate information and entertainment without hindrance from the state and non-state factors.

What do theories of mass communication, journalistic principles and ethics stand for? They all advocate for public interests. Mass media have a public duty. Private entrepreneurs expect to reap profits from the public good. Their profit goes down with the declining image of their media institution. Thus, maximizing the degree of public good that mass media do to people is the surest way to collecting better profit. But just the opposite is often perceived; as a result, misuse of press freedom becomes a problem.

Human beings do have biological instincts and subconsciously follow them. Had their mind been confined to those biological instincts, would they ever be able to function with an endless flow of creativity, imaginativeness and innovativeness? Had they lived just on instincts, would the human society be structured like this? Would there be the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its subsequent treaties, national constitutions and laws to guide their actions? Had they been limited to their biological instincts, would they have such check-and-balance systems? Nevertheless, since individual human beings and their formatting corporations have dared to think of limiting human beings to their biological instincts so that consumerism, hedonism and lustfulness would retain for long, contributing to their profit missions. This is where press freedom debate should focus, seeking noble values for a peaceful and happy world, without mass exterminations in the name of this and that.

Enriching Press Freedom through Noble Values

Indeed, wiser would be to connect the idea of press freedom with the universally acclaimed noble values, especially the ones strategized by the Buddha, who always acted as an empirical teacher and analyst on mind-matter relations and their repercussions in the human society. The Noble Eightfold Path is the most significant methodology synthesized from all of his teachings throughout his life. The eight steps in the Noble Eightfold Path defined by the Buddha include the *Right View*, the *Right Intention*, the *Right Speech*, the *Right Action*, the *Right Livelihood*, the *Right Effort*, the *Right Mindfulness* and the *Right Concentration*.

These eight steps, nonsequential, can be categorized into three major sections: *Morality* (Sila), *Concentration* (Samadhi) and *Wisdom* (Pragya). The section of *Morality* includes the *Right Speech*, the *Right Action* and the *Right Livelihood*. Similarly, the section of *Concentration* consists of the *Right Effort*, the *Right Mindfulness* and the *Right Concentration*, while the section of *Pragya* comprises the *Right View* and the *Right Intention*. All of these eight steps are inseparably inter-connected and should be considered integral components.

In line with the Buddha's noble guidelines, media workers need to understand that each action has its corresponding consequences, i.e. output is equal to input. Therefore, media workers are required to respect the right to life and the principle of harmlessness; they must not take what is not meant for them. Avoiding indulgence in sensual pleasure is equally important for them because sensualism deviates them from their noble duty to serve people watchfully. Discarding false, harsh and slanderous speech or message is highly important for the quality and accuracy of their journalistic practices. Similarly, the Buddha emphasizes on avoiding idle chatter. The idle chatter in journalism practically concerns superficial, propagandistic and less informative communication. When

journalists cannot overcome their covetousness, their vulnerability grows. Ill-will produces hate speech—a serious problem in the global communication marked by racism and hegemonism. Hate speech is instrumental in destroying peace and harmony in the human community.

Thus, the Buddha's communication theory of the Right Speech is related to not only interpersonal communication but all kinds of communication, including mass communication and journalism. Abstaining from false speech, Abstaining from slanderous speech, Abstaining from harsh speech, Abstaining from idle chatter are the major principles of right communication.

Press freedom, a powerful battery to the engine of democracy, can be a process of ennobling the process of our journalism and communication. The better we are able to utilize it, the better our society becomes in overall terms. The worse we use it, the worse we get collectively. In other words, press freedom is related to our mental and moral cultures. If we regularly train ourselves in good mental and moral cultures, the degree of our wisdom grows better. If we train ourselves in negative mental and moral cultures, we fall down to a level where we love to cling to ignoble values. Therefore, ennobling press freedom is directly related to ennobling our own mental and moral cultures. This is what we must emphasize more than reacting insanely against the consequences that originate from ignoble mindset. For cause-and-effect analysis of press freedom, the Buddhist approach defined spiritually in the Noble Eightfold Path strategy would be the best help.

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<https://www.groundreport.com/achieving-gender-equality-noble-eightfold-path-methodology/>

ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH METHODOLOGY: A UNIVERSAL PERSPECTIVE

mar 8, 2016 | news, world

The ILO (2007, p. 89) states, “Gender refers to the socially constructed differences and relations between males and females. These vary widely among societies and cultures and change over time.” Indeed, gender is a broader concept that also addresses the issues of other sexual minorities socially discriminated or excluded.

The 2016 theme for the International Women’s Day *Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality* can be termed as adventurous, rather than farce. The world has already spent billions on women development; however, the majority of women are still extremely vulnerable to direct gender-based discriminations across the globe. Despite a huge investment in women development, with numerous specialized agencies in action, gender disparity has expanded into a profit-making industry. The undeniable global reality is that the number of women with access to education, health or, in general, an adequate standard of living, is far lower even today. Therefore, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon[1] has urged the world to devote solid funding, courageous advocacy and unbending political will towards achieving the gender equality in the globe. The Secretary-General’s idea carries a deeper underlying meaning, especially for a country like Nepal, where all-pervasive all-sector corruption buries moral strength, so essential for democracy to function in a natural way.

The solid funding has to address the core issues that accelerate women empowerment. The best area to spend in is education, an education that empowers women from analytical and critical perspectives. Should they be allowed to go through academic capacity building stages, they gain a level to judge their own status as well as that of other women, seeking to detect causes and effects of their under-privileged conditions.

Moreover, it would be good to understand the term ‘solid funding’ in terms of result-oriented specificities, concrete monitoring and evaluation, with visible acts of accountability. The allocation of funds alone would not suffice. The most essential thing is to utilize it productively and precisely so as to achieve sustainable results.

Similarly, it would not be very fruitful to understand ‘courageous advocacy’ in a conventional manner. Courageous advocacy in favor of gender equality involves moral courage to say white is white and black is black. In Nepal, women political

representatives appear very feeble-minded as far as their political exercises are concerned. They are little exposed to gender advocacy to a proper degree.

The current degree and effectiveness of advocacy do not appear adequate. The greatest chunks of advocacy money have been spent on paper work and oral interaction programs in hotels. The messages of hotel-based seminars and interaction programs have not yet reached the majority of grassroots women, who have little media literacy. Even if they get scanty amount of information from the media outlets to which they might have access, they are unable to process it into a desired meaning. In other words, women's vulnerabilities exist in different forms despite frequent professional advocacy. Thus, the solid funding, indeed, has to concretely address the most vulnerable majority of women, who never know how huge sum of money is being daily spent on the advocacy in their name.

For an unbending political will, the political parties mostly requires moral integrity and political insight—rare things in the globe. Political forces misunderstand themselves. While they misunderstand themselves, they tend to blindly teach the world to do this and that. One type of their misunderstanding is that individuals who amass wealth in some ways must be permitted to over-rule the world. Isn't it a matter of common sense that the Earth cannot be privatized and smuggled away to heaven? Why do the world's political forces deliberately make policies that allow the few to seize most of the resources while the suffering majority are out of their mental frame?

Since achieving gender equality is a human-centric approach, the best philosophy available in the globe should be explored. The Buddha's Noble Eightfold Path is the most scientific methodology ever developed by human beings. What transformed the Buddha from a normal human being into an enlightened one is often referred to as the Vipassana, an empirical science focused on the mind-body relationships and their biochemical effects. This word may not have the exact counterpart for interpretation. But it refers to a process of investigating the mind-matter relationship to develop an equanimous subconscious mind. The greatest contribution that the Noble Eightfold Path has made is that it has a methodology to defeat prejudices in the form of craving for or averting something. The Buddha has taught us a middle path for becoming peaceful and happy. He has simply pointed out how our likes and dislikes are cultivated in our subconscious mind, which automatically deepens and multiplies them.

Since gender discrimination is the habit cultured by our subconscious mind, mere laws and policies cannot combat this problem. It demands our psychological transformation. The Noble Eightfold Path is the best tool for it.

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2015

<https://www.groundreport.com/whose-vehicle-ran-over-a-kathmanduite-on-friday/>

WHOSE VEHICLE RAN OVER A KATHMANDUITE ON FRIDAY?

may 30, 2015 | crime, news

The Armed Police Force (APF) of Nepal, weakened by the on-the-spot eyewitnesses, was pressurized enough last night to submit its truck numbered Na. 1 Ga. 655 that escaped after it ran over a Kathmanduite at Sitapaila Chowk at about 10:00hrs on 29 May 2015. Saroj Basel, a local resident of Sitapaila, while biking to work, was confirmed dead on the spot. However, the APF has not yet admitted to the running-over despite the on-the-spot eyewitnesses, who reported to the traffic police deployed on the road.

Four eye witnesses, who prefer to remain under low profile due to indirect threats and future security reasons, did confirm that the APF vehicle had hit and run over the 22-year old youth.

The transport entrepreneurs and workers associated with the Samyukta Yatayat angrily protested by barricading the road last night from Balaju to APF

Headquarters, Halchowk, Swayambhu after the APF personnel who travelled by Na. 1 Ga. 655 accused the Samyukta Yatayat bus numbered Ba. 3 Kha. 5044 of killing Basel.

The Authority and the representatives of Basel's family and Samyukta Yatayat have been involved in talks for several hours, with no concrete progress noted yet.

The angry relatives and neighbors of the deceased's family circle, gathering around the Metropolitan Police Circle, Swayambhu, have been demanding that the APF follow the path of justice. The family members have refused to acknowledge the dead body without a clear stance of responsibility of the accident.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-students-protest-against-indian-interference/>

Nepali students protest against Indian interference

Nov 27, 2015 | [Geopolitics](#), [News](#)

About two hundred thousand Nepali students on Friday came out to the Ring Road streets in the Kathmandu Valley demanding their right to life and education in the light of the three-month long Madhesh protests that have been violent and anarchic. The major demand of the Madheshi protesters is that their territories bordering India must be exclusive Madhesh provinces, without inclusion of hilly Aryan and ethnic groups.

Since India has apparently backed the Madhesh movement and has continued its economic blockade against Nepal for more than two months, the students have asked India to respect Nepali children's right to life and education. They have strongly demanded that India stop interfering in Nepal's internal affairs. They chanted, "Respect Human Rights" and "While nearly four dozen people have died due to violence in the Madhesh, educational institutions have remained closed for three months.

Nepal's parties remain silent so far with no clear-cut strategy to cope with the severe humanitarian crisis arisen out of the Indian blockade and Nepal's over-ruling domestic black market forces. However, ordinary people warn parties that there be no surrender to Indian bullying.

India had imposed a similar blockade against Nepal in 1963 when Nepal, in agreement with the People's Republic of China, began to construct Araniko Highway for an access to the Chinese Autonomous Region of Tibet. India imposed a similar blockade as Nepal removed the Indian military posts from the Nepali territory in 1969.

The longest blockade India has ever imposed against Nepal was in 1990, when Nepal purchased some modern weapons and military tanks for the Nepal Army to update themselves for UN Peacekeeping Keeping services. It was a 13-month long blockade. The Nepali Congress Party and 'Communists' (they are unpredictable and have been broken into more than two dozen fringe groups now) during a democratic movement in 1990. The opposition parties then had praised the Indian blockade.

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-secretary-general-shows-huge-concern-over-the-indo-nepal-blockade/>

UN Secretary-General Shows huge concern over the Indo-Nepal Blockade

Nov 21, 2015 | [News](#), [World](#)

[Issuing a press release](#), the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on all concerned stakeholders to lift the ongoing blockade at Indo-Nepal border points on Friday.

The Press release highlights, "The Secretary-General underlines his growing concern over the blocking of essential supplies on the Nepal-India border. He is alarmed by reports of the obstruction, and destruction, of life-saving medical supplies and the continued impact on humanitarian operations. He calls on all sides to lift these restrictions without further delay and underlines Nepal's right of free transit."

Stressing the importance of dialogue and non-violence to resolve the issue, the Secretary General urged all sides concerned to resolve their differences in a peaceful and flexible manner.

<https://www.groundreport.com/another-nepali-migrant-workers-dead-body-arrives-home/>

Another Nepali migrant worker's dead body arrives home

Jan 10, 2015 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

As has been a usual sequence of Nepali family members receiving the dead body of their members working in Malaysia, another family, too, has received a dead body today. Ramji Mijar, 42, of Dhapakhel-5, Lalitpur died of ischemia heart disease in Malaysia on 4 January 2015, according to the Nepali Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. The documents sent to Kathmandu along with Mijar's dead body that arrived Saturday show that he had been working for J-Force Security Services sdn bhd for two years.

According to Mijar's family sources, he had talked to the family members very well on 3 January (just the day before his death), referring to his plan to extend one more year.

The deceased is survived by his mother, wife and two children—son, 19 and daughter, 17. They remain doubtful over the officially given post-mortem result as the cause of his death since this cause has been most commonly pronounced regarding the death of most Nepali migrant workers in Malaysia.

Avsar Manpower is said to have been the Nepali recruiting agency that sent Mijar to Malaysia.

As documented by the Nepali Embassy in Malaysia, more than 200 Nepali migrant workers have died during the period from July 2014 to December 2014. Malaysia has been heavily criticized in media for its extremely poor working and living conditions for migrant workers.

Nepali political parties and civil society organizations have not to date made their stance publicly clear on the labor bondage legalized by the Nepali and Malaysian governments. Nepali migrant workers often openly tell media that their passports are confiscated by the employers while the workers are not allowed to keep a copy of their contract paper either.

Chandra Sumshere, one of the hereditary Rana prime ministers, who ruled Nepal for 31 years from 1898 to 1929, had initiated the custom of selling Nepali nationals to foreign recruiters, especially in connection with the mercenary trade for the World War I and the World War II.

2014

<https://www.groundreport.com/saarc-and-shark-need-to-de-feudalize-democracy/>

SAARC AND SHARK: NEED TO DE-FEUDALIZE DEMOCRACY

nov 27, 2014 | news, politics

The 18th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit has concluded Thursday with a 36-point Kathmandu Declaration. The two-day summit held in Kathmandu from 26-27 November mainly emphasized on the regional cooperation for security and anti-terrorism network, mutual trade and energy cooperation.

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaj Sariff did not speak to and shake hands with each other on the first day of the summit. However, they shook hands and exchanged words on the second day. They had been heavily criticized through media for maintaining their cold war even during the regional summit.

Since its foundation in 1985, the SAARC governments have been pledging their people's development. Despite more than 400 decisions taken during their previous 17 summits, their non-implementation has deepened public despair. However, they have reiterated their promises in the 18th summit as well.

The Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, the Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, The Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Maldives President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, the Nepali Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaj Sharif and the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksha were the major participants in the 18th SAARC summit. Besides, observers from Australia, Burma, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, South Korea and the United States participated in the summit.

While the heads of states and governments presented their elitist talks as usual in the summit, it is an apparent truth that the political and socio-economic power in South Asia has been overwhelmingly concentrated in the few elite groups

while living conditions of the majority of toiling masses remain extremely poor. Deep-rooted social hierarchies and discriminations, massive labor exploitation, rampant feudal culture and practices in cities and villages, manipulation of market prices by cartels with political nexus, and blind chauvinism seriously imply that no victimological perspectives have been utilized in their national and regional politics and development strategies.

So far South Asian leaders have mainly lingered to good-looking terminologies while still unable to manage their flagrant home contradictions. Empirical observations always prove that minimum democracy lacks at grassroots levels in South Asian countries.

The brain drainage of South Asian intellectuals into Europe, America and Australia, and the exodus of active population into Gulf countries prove that the South Asian economic policies are concentrated mainly on the political demobilization of people and amassing wealth in the few hands with which to continue their hereditary politics.

Inhuman conditions, beyond the perception of human rights think-tanks, rampant in South Asia, imply that South Asian political forces face a tough challenge of de-feudalizing their democracy so as to develop peace and security through social justice in their own countries and in the region as a whole. Only then, peoples of South Asia will cease to consider the SAARC as the shark, ruthlessly, greedily and dishonestly troubling them.

ENRICHING PRESS FREEDOM THROUGH PRACTICAL BUDDHIST PRESCRIPTIONS

may 3, 2014 | journalism, news

Kathmandu: May 3, 2014

Participating in a seminar today organized jointly by the Center for Media Diversity (CMD) and the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Kantipur City College, participants shed light on the importance of human-centric Buddhist prescriptions, which, they argued contain practical relevancy for utilizing press freedom for greater democracy and human rights.

Professor Lal Deusa Rai, affiliated to the Department of Journalism (Tribhuvan University) pointed out that there were rich Eastern resources for conducting media research from Buddhist and Hindu perspectives. While the Western institutions have been issuing press freedom indexes from their own perspectives, Prof. Rai argued that press freedom empirical research could be conducted by using Eastern values and parameters to acquaint the world with the original Eastern status as regards media functions and press freedom.

Supporting Prof. Rai, Nepal's Veteran Journalist and former Nepal Press Institute Chairperson Gokul Pokhrel stressed on the need to soul-searchingly link religious studies with media and democracy through oriental perspectives. He also suggested the CMD to prepare a software and a training manual to promote education on the Noble Eightfold Path, useful in every sector.

Mr. Nirmal Rijal, a RMT PhD research final examinee and Technical Advisor of Equal Access, shed light on the global parameters of press freedom. He stated that democracy does not become fruitful in absence of a free press and equitable development. For this, he stressed on 'diversity, access and pluralism' of media, with the reduction of media concentration. "Media should respect the rights of individuals and organizations while exercising press freedom," he added.

Mr. Pratibedan Baidya, Board Member of Center for Media Diversity, informed the participants about mass communication and journalism research as the major focus of Center for Media Diversity. He pointed out the scarcity of media-related research in Nepal while much of the donated fund is being wasted on superficial advocacy not supported by empirical research.

Welcoming the participants at the beginning of the program, CMD Board Member Sonu K.C. said that the CMD initiated a dialogue on how press freedom can be enriched better through Buddhist Noble Eightfold Path perspectives, relevant for media professionals to understand scientific mind-behavior relationship, causes and effects of issues and events, and the need to ethically and mindfully operate one's own mind towards the wellbeing of humanity.

<https://www.groundreport.com/enriching-press-freedom-through-practical-buddhist-prescriptions/>

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Mr. Nirmal Rijal, a RMT PhD research final examinee and Technical Advisor of Equal Access, shed light on the global parameters of press freedom. He stated that democracy does not become fruitful in absence of a free press and equitable development. For this, he stressed on 'diversity, access and pluralism' of media,

with the reduction of media concentration. “Media should respect the rights of individuals and organizations while exercising press freedom,” he added.

Mr. Pratibedan Baidya, Board Member of Center for Media Diversity, informed the participants about mass communication and journalism research as the major focus of Center for Media Diversity. He pointed out the scarcity of media-related research in Nepal while much of the donated fund is being wasted on superficial advocacy not supported by empirical research.

Welcoming the participants at the beginning of the program, CMD Board Member Sonu K.C. said that the CMD initiated a dialogue on how press freedom can be enriched better through Buddhist Noble Eightfold Path perspectives, relevant for media professionals to understand scientific mind-behavior relationship, causes and effects of issues and events, and the need to ethically and mindfully operate one’s own mind towards the wellbeing of humanity.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-peace-process-journalism-and-debate-of-decorating-the-skin/>

Nepal peace process, journalism and debate of decorating the skin

Nov 2, 2014 | [Journalism](#), [News](#)

Journalism informs people about meat being sold or bought; however, journalism itself is no meat on sale. Journalists supply facts, data and opinion to their audiences, who in turn, have to process out a meaning to use in their decision-making activities. Journalism mostly informs its recipients about everyday conflicts around and among people. While it demonstrates those who quarrel among themselves, it does not become a participant in the quarrel. This is the nature of journalism.

A media entity can enjoy a legal provision of selling its space to advertisers so that both media entrepreneurship as well as journalism can be viable. If one attempts to trivialize journalism into sponsored publicity, with little regard for vital public concerns, this practice no longer gives a true sense of journalism. This is simply what the universal understanding of journalism is.

Journalism, of course, is a service to people like in any other sector. But its unique features must be mastered, internalized and genuinely pursued by those who vow to take it up. Without financial resources, neither social work nor commerce can go on. This truth applies to the field of journalism as well. This is where a moral role of journalism is to be sought the most because of possible vulnerabilities.

Amidst vulnerabilities, a proactive moral role of journalism is sought in Nepal's peace process. Despite its financial scarcity, Nepal's national mass media have done their best to inform people on current affairs, definitely, including the ongoing peace process.

Some may differ from this idea of 'ongoing peace process' due to their informal belief that peace process has already reached a logical conclusion following the dissolution of the former Maoist rebels' People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the formation of the democratically elected government, though the former rebels, elected as the third force, have preferred to remain outside of it. The truth is that the peace process has not reached a logical conclusion yet because Nepal is still governed by the Interim Constitution while the Constituent Assembly has been elected for the second time as the first one failed to complete the mission of producing a new republican and federal constitution as per the mandate of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Interim Constitution.

Besides, Nepal's peace process stakeholders, supported by the international community, have unanimously accepted the provision of transforming the armed conflict through a new constitution to be drafted by the Constituent Assembly. This transformation of the armed conflict has been envisioned in the CPA as the political, socio-economic and cultural transformation of the Nepali society over-ruled by autocracy and oligarchies so far. At least, so long as the new constitution in the form of primary peacebuilding tool is not declared, it would not be officially reasonable to say that the peace process is over. In addition, all the major peace process stakeholders have time and again reiterated the term 'transition period'. This also proves that the goal of the peace process will be reached when the new constitution, with a vision and mission to restructure Nepal inclusively, comes into practice. In this context, journalism's moral role implies that it needs to whole-heartedly work in favor of the state restructuring and inclusive democracy while the whole country is going through a paradigm shift, i.e., from the monolithic monarchical system to a pluralistic republican system.

Various factors may have contributed to media's inability to provide comprehensive, critical and analytical coverage of the peace agreement components. Mostly, event and incident-based stories have appeared while investigative and substantial information dissemination has become a collective lack. Mindfulness, as the Buddha states, is always necessary to mobilize our mind towards the public good. The moral role of Nepal's journalism in the ongoing peace process is mainly required in making use of the vital ingredients contained in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement 2006: political, socio-economic and cultural transformation and state restructuring. How substantially have the Nepali media grasped and covered these ingredients of the peace process so as to discourage status quoism? If our mission is to create public opinion for status quoism, will our peace process bring us any opportunity for overall transformation and state restructuring without which the causes and effects of the armed conflict are not addressed? Why are we creating much debate about decorating the skin of the matter?

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-uml-party-convention-and-its-possible-future-repercussions/>

Nepal: UML Party Convention and its possible future repercussions

Jul 5, 2014 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML), which stands as the second largest political party through the Constituent Assembly II elections this year, is engaged in an intensive process of choosing the next party leadership through the ongoing Ninth Party Convention in Kathmandu. Jhalanath Khanal, the current UML Chair, has been adopting strategic silence during the whole process of intra-party and public discourses regarding who the next party head will be. While UML party workers appear to have been extremely divided as to having the next party Chair, the rivalry is reaching a climax within the party. It is understood that strong lobbying for and against is going on among the Party Convention representatives even within the temporary closed camps erected at Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu.

K. P. Sharma Oli and Madhav Kumar Nepal have proposed themselves as the next party Chairperson while the current party Chairperson Jhalanath Khanal is yet to clarify his stance. Only after nomination of the candidates and the actual voting will one be able to officially pronounce the name of the next UML party Chair. However, both Oli and Nepal have claimed each that they would be the next elected head.

K. P. Sharma Oli, who has never become the party head despite his highly influential role in the party for long, has reiterated in his public speeches that it would not be appropriate for Madhav Kumar Nepal to become the party Chairperson again as he has already been in the party head's position continuously for 15 years. Oli publicly accuses Nepal, "He is trying to confuse party cadres even after already having resigned from the party chief's position due to the failure of his policy and leadership approved of in the Seventh Party Convention." Countering this accusation, Nepal has also publicly accused Oli of having gone against the republic by denouncing the Seventh Party Convention that unanimously approved of the republic.

Publicly campaigning for Oli as the next UML Party Chief, Vice-Premier and Home Minister, Bambdev Gautam—also the current UML Vice-Chair—stresses that K. P. Sharma Oli be the next UML Chairperson as he has always been barred from the position before. Gautam sees less credibility in Madhav Kumar Nepal who ruled the party consecutively for 15 years, with a sharp decline of UML role in national politics.

Analysis and Comment

In terms of political essence and character, ordinary people in Nepal generally cannot differentiate between Sushil Koirala and Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress or between K. P. Oli and Madhav Kumar Nepal of UML or between Puspa Kamal Dahal and Baburam Bhattarai of the Unified Maoist. Their rhetorical communication patterns and presentation styles may differ but their party guidelines have not become as effective as they should have been as to applying democratic principles to public life. The political experiences of the Nepalis since the

1950s clearly prove that political parties have remained subservient to addictive power exercises rather than to public interests. Consequently, the long-disputed border issues have been further exacerbated while education, health services and drinking water have been handed over to anarchic private enterprises, which, indeed, have not internalized any values of corporate social responsibility. This has led people to misperceive democracy as doing anything that benefits individuals at the cost of the public good.

Amidst such public frustrations, it sounds quite natural for ordinary Nepalis—not blind supporters or blind opposers—to expect from the General Convention of any political party a new and visionary leadership that does, without indulging in individual egoism and vendetta, redefine itself in favor of visible public good, possible only through ethical, transparent and public-spirited leadership—a stark lack today.

The ongoing UML convention, like in the general conventions of the Nepali Congress, the Unified Maoist, and other parties, does not appear to have been characterized by intellectual debates as to national strategies to empower people at grassroots levels. Instead, it has been customary for parties to concentrate on the who rather than on the what and the why. As a result, people are compelled to remain uninformed about which parties adopt what economic, social and cultural policies for the overall progress of the Nepali society.

Through the democratic election within the Party Convention framework, UML will choose its next leadership should there be no ‘consensus’ by the time of nomination on Sunday. But will UML representatives also debate and reconstruct the party policies so that ordinary masses, who do not have the power of 3Ms—money, media and muscle—can benefit? Future repercussions of the UML Party Convention will mainly depend on what difference the chosen leadership will bring about to ordinary voters’ lives.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-governments-policies-and-programs-not-change-oriented/>

Nepal government’s policies and programs: not change-oriented

Jun 30, 2014 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

Nepal’s President Dr. [Ram Baran Yadav](#) Sunday announced the annual policies and programs of Nepal government in the Legislative-Parliament.

The annual policies and programs made public prior to the imminent budget speech underline peace, constitution and economic development as the priorities. They promise to create employment for hundreds of thousands. These are positive promises. A high level of moral integrity and follow-up communication and cross-examination are required to ensure smooth implementation—a bitter truth experienced during more than six decades in Nepal.

Despite the positive promises, the policies and programs, expected of any political party in Nepal, sound ritual and traditional, with no innovative approaches and change attitudes. They, like those announced by former governments, contain much vagueness as to the nature of Nepal's economic strategies and their programmatic tactics for poverty reduction.

All-pervasive corruption as a national race will always remain the chief barrier to the implementation of the measures based on the announced policies. Nepal's poverty is not a product of lack of resources, human and material. Its major cause is lack of moral integrity at political levels. This moral crisis evidently paved the way for Nepal's Maoist insurgency (1996-2006), which caused huge losses, human and material, further exacerbating multiple corruption in the name of 'People's War' and 'Counter-Insurgency'. The government's policies and programs remain too vague and weak as regards the settlement of the insurgency-raised issues, which were nationally approved of through the Constituent Assembly elections held on April 10, 2008, aimed at utilizing the elected Assembly for empowering the Nepalis towards peaceful transformation of their lives in political, socio-economic and cultural spheres.

The Comprehensive peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the former State parties and the Maoist rebels on November 21, 2006, contained the theoretical provisions for big changes in every sector. But the concerned stakeholders have remained far removed from these major agenda of transformation because they have unhealthily focused on amassing wealth and re-strengthening their status quo, for fear of change and the process of de-feudalization.

Currently, no substantive changes have resulted in the lives of the Nepalis, while smugglers and blackmarkeeters, including state officials cooperating with them, have grown from millionaires to billionaires. The supremacy of impunity in every sector and the desiccation of political parties' intellectual and moral strength have further frustrated people. Consequently, more and more people are becoming labor migrants. While labor and brain drainage from Nepal is alarmingly growing, human suppliers active both in industrial complexes and government have reaped huge profits, with full oblivion of the fact that the nation's juices for development are drying up, with productivity steeply declining at home. The policies and programs have declared a usual support to continue such human supplying trade.

No economic prosperity can ever be imagined through all-out privatization of all the essential goods and services, without guaranteeing development infrastructures across the nation. While the state has merely served private profiteers, with zero sense of corporate social responsibility, people have been victimized by syndicate and market anomalies. With a per capita income of about US\$735 per annum (a Nepali earns an average wage of NRS.6,000 per month), the Nepalis cannot enjoy an adequate standard of living as outlined in the universal human rights documents. Thus, resources have been concentrated in the hands of limited population, further jeopardizing democracy and human rights. The policies and programs have not scientifically and analytically addressed these concerns.

Unfortunately, the peace process has been misinterpreted as an opportunity for contracting business at the cost of poor masses.

Making a new constitution, the prime agenda of the current Constituent Assembly II (elected this year), is a matter of abandoning status quoist path. Unless parties proceed from status quo, no new constitution is possible. Only the old one, with some modified wording, will be re-adjusted.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-need-specific-dynamic-media-strategies-required/>

Nepal: Need-specific dynamic media strategies required

Feb 25, 2014 | [Journalism](#), [News](#)

Ms. Babita Basnet and Mr. Dhruba Hari Adhikary, the KCC Journalism Awardees 2070

Nepal's Professor of Media Economics Rama Krishna Regmee has stressed on the need for Nepali policy and academic stakeholders to develop need-specific dynamic media strategies that can address not only the capital city but also 58 municipalities as well as areas beyond media access. Presenting his talk Tuesday before the participants of a journalism award ceremony in Kathmandu, Prof. Regmee pointed out that master level mass communication and journalism education in Nepal is geared toward developing among journalism students a set of communication and sociability skills, with the possibility of growth in critical thinking skills. He, however, admitted to constraints at stakeholder levels while he emphasized on the media-facilitated dialogue of diverse social actors.

Nepal's dedicated editor affiliated to the *Ghatana Ra Vichar* weekly, Babita Basnet one of the two awardees, expressed her pleasure for the recognition of her journalistic contribution by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Kantipur City College. Also a prominent gender equity advocate in the country, Basnet told the audience about how she grew into a national figure through numerous woes as a struggling woman journalist in a developing country like Nepal.

Similarly, another awardee Dhruba Hari Adhikary, a veteran freelance journalist, with considerable experience with the New York Times, Reuters, BBC and others, expressed his concern over the growing deviation of Nepali journalism from ethical professionalism—the condition which he refers to as the 'decline in media credibility' as the recently released UNESCO report has indicated.

The evaluation panel headed by veteran journalist Gokul Pokhrel had selected the KCC Journalism Awardees, who received a cash prize of NRS25,000.00 each and a certificate of appreciation. This is the first time that an academic institution has initiated a professional journalism award in Nepal.

2013

<https://www.groundreport.com/mandela-truth-south-africans-and-nepalis/>

Mandela truth: South Africans and Nepalis

Dec 7, 2013 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

Violence reproduces violence, geometrically multiplying, redoubling public sufferings. Nelson Mandela perceived this fundamental truth at the deepest level. During his anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, it was his meticulous thinking that led him to stand firmly against vendetta craze, which would ignite civil war. Ruling out armed civil war under his leadership, he barred the sowing of indefinite bloody path—an extremely horrible truth excruciating many nations in the world. Such a far-sighted statesman equipped with noble thoughts has passed away, leaving behind a rich heritage of nonviolent reconciliatory political ideology for the world to continue.

A global symbol of fight for human dignity, freedom and equality, Nelson Mandela will remain a blockbuster influence in the world's socio-political disciplines.

Despite his physical demise, his proven faith in nonviolent politics and his compassionate thoughts will live to inspire generations for world peace and co-existence.

Those who may be specializing in civil wars as a multinational trade will possibly feel defeated when they remember Nelson Mandela's nonviolent statesmanship—a vital matter that political gamblers in nations, rich and poor, need to internalize.

The true homage to Nelson Mandela is to utilize his proven method of nonviolent struggles geared towards drawing greater public support for equality, freedom and brotherhood. To render Nelson Mandela a lucrative trade brand overshadowing the plight of suffering masses would be an utter humiliation against him. Work for social justice honors him. A mere lip service dishonors him.

Will the context of Nelson Mandela remind Nepal's political parties, especially their young generations, of the need to speculate why statesmanship is essential to drive home politics so as to prevent civil war? Despite rich resources, hard-working masses and international donations worth billions of dollars, the Nepalis remain among the poorest in the world while their leaders having nexus with business elites appear to have lived to eat. Supporters of parties may differ on this observation; however, the existing plight of the majority of Nepalis justifies it. South Africans, too, suffer the same fate. Only elites enjoy privileges and accesses while the majority

still remain marginalized developmentally despite the new inclusive constitution with equal rights defined. Likewise, the Nepalis have excellent rights in documents while their actual life is still pitiable, the most pitiable being their conditions of essential goods and services.

Despite the end of apartheid in formal terms in South Africa, the long-privileged ones, sticking to status quoism, still remain the decisive ruling power while the political and socio-economic disparity is still a big challenge for the South Africans. It's exactly the case in Nepal. Despite the complete constitutional and legal ban on caste-based discriminations, the plight of millions of so-called untouchable people—politically referred to as *Dalits*—remains the same in Nepal's 3,915 villages and dozens of cities. This similarity between the South Africans and Nepalis is worth considering while we feel inspired to continue nonviolent and humanist movement for equality and justice.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-former-rebels-declare-non-representation-in-the-would-be-constituent-assembly/>

Nepal's former rebels declare non-representation in the would-be Constituent Assembly

Nov 21, 2013 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

The Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)–UCPNM– has declared that it is likely to be out of the Constituent Assembly being elected if the current vote counting is not postponed and investigation launched following their formal complaint about nationwide rigging done while the ballot boxes were being moved from the polling stations to counting centers without letting party representatives accompany. The UCPNM has also attributed the rigging to doubtful delay of transporting the ballot boxes to the counting centers.

The UCPNM Chairperson Prachanda addressing a press conference Thursday told reporters that they felt serious and subtle conspiracy against them.

The UCPNM withdrew from the vote counting process Wednesday night, requesting the Election Commission to postpone for investigation of the obvious irregularities seen.

However, the other parties leading in vote counting have denied any rigging through bureaucracy and security mechanisms. The Election Commission has already refused to consider the lodged complaint.

The new development in Nepal's political situation seems to further complicate the ongoing peace process that does not reach a logical end without a new constitution based on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the former Maoist rebels and the other parliamentary parties on 21 November 2006.

<https://www.groundreport.com/page/13/?s=nepal>

Maoist cadres capture journalist in Rolpa, Nepal

Nov 19, 2013 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

Cadres of the Communist Party of Nepal—Maoist Tuesday have captured Mausam Roka Magar, the Rolpa District President of Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) while on the way to Thawang, his home village, to vote in the ongoing Constituency Assembly elections. His whereabouts is still unknown.

Thawang is a village in Rolpa district highlighted for having been an originating stronghold of armed Maoist insurgents.

The Communist Party of Nepal—Maoist, which is the split of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), has boycotted Wednesday's Constituent Assembly elections II saying the elections would bring no solutions without its dignified participation.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-bomb-explosions-by-open-parties-go-on-state-as-spectator/>

Nepal: Bomb Explosions by Open Parties Go On, State As Spectator

Nov 12, 2013 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

The majority of Nepalis Tuesday directly defied the all-out nine-day transport strike called by a front consisting of 33 fringe parties headed by the Communist Party of Nepal—Maoist (CPN—M), a split from the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM). A heavy presence of

private and other small vehicles such as taxis, tempos and mini-trucks could be seen in the streets of the Kathmandu Valley. However, commercial passenger vehicles were quite few in number.

The parties have called the transport strike against the Constituent Assembly elections set for November 19, 2013. Their demand is to postpone the elections, which they term as the Indian conspiracy to take over Nepal through a new constitution.

As part of its anti-election campaign, the Maoist split, based on its former armed combat experience, has been terrorizing voters by exploding pressure cooker and socket bombs while using petrol bombs against the running vehicles.

The UCPNM, the Nepali Congress (NC), the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) and other parties are contesting the elections, arguing that they are the ones to lead a new Nepal with a federal republican structure. a debate since the abolition of monarchy by the elected Constituent Assembly on May 28, 2008.

The other anti-election 32 parties with an estimated few dozen supporters each are seldom heard among people while the UCPNM split has about 3000 former People's Liberation Army (PLA) fighters with whose mobilization the central leadership of the faction is getting its name highlighted in the Nepali media. Should the bombs haunt Nepali private transport entrepreneurs, the Nepalis are likely to suffer for a few more days. As Nepal does not have a public transport system at all, individually owned commercial passenger vehicles connected with syndicating groups operate at their own will. On strike days, ordinary people suffer due to the stoppage of transport operations.

Surprisingly, the Nepal Government has not yet arrested the open leaders under whose leadership bombs are being exploded in the name of boycotting the Constituent Assembly elections.

<https://www.groundreport.com/5045905/>

Nepal Police seizes huge quantity of wine from Nepali Congress Election Campaign Office

Nov 3, 2013 | [News](#), [Politics](#)

Nepal Police Sunday seized 325 cartons of unlabeled wine hidden in the Nepali Congress Election Campaign Office and Nepali Congress Party Worker Mahendra Gupta's house in Nawalparasi district.

None of the seized 10,800 bottles of wine carried any In-Land Revenue Sticker and producer's label. But the police has initially confirmed that the unlabeled and tax-evaded wine was produced by Sundari Distillery (P) Ltd. owned by a relative of former State Home Minister

Devendra Kandel, who is a Nepali Congress candidate of Nawalparasi Constituency 4 for the Constituent Assembly elections scheduled for November 19, 2013.

The police had raided the Nepali Congress Election Campaign Office and the party worker's house at local people's pressure.

In Nepal, wine is widely used to influence voters, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, where politics is heavily communalized, ignoring the need to upgrade voters' democratic consciousness.

There is no information about any arrest related to violation of election laws and regulations as well as tax evasion of a huge quantity of wine.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-lets-public-health-hurters-practice-their-substandard-business/>

Nepal government lets public health hurters practice their substandard business

Nov 3, 2013 | [Business](#), [Commodities](#)

Nepal government has not taken any actions against the sweet shops that were found manufacturing and selling sweets in the most unhygienic manner by using fungi-infected and adulterated raw materials.

On the 1st of November 2013, a government inspection team headed by Ms. Jiwan Prabha Lama, the Director-General of the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, raided 20 sampled sweet shops in different areas in Kathmandu and found the horrible activities, also widely reported by national and international mass media.

It is extremely surprising that Ms. Lama has ironically informed media that actions might be taken against them after several weeks if the government wants to. None has yet been arrested while the raids were made.

Although Nepal's consumer laws and regulations clearly allow the government to take any strict legal actions against those deliberately involved in substandard business against public health, ill-governance, brokership and all-pervasive corruption remain the chief barriers to bringing illegal forces to book.

In October this year, the government had raided 11 sweet shops and found similar problems, which were disseminated by Nepal's national media. The inspectors briefed the shop owners about quality food and public health without filing any cases though they had anti-public health evidences at hand.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-ciaa-arrests-oil-corporation-executives/>

Nepal: CIAA arrests Oil Corporation executives

Sep 25, 2013 | [Corruption](#), [News](#)

The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) on Tuesday has arrested four executives of Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) to investigate filed cases regarding the distribution of bonus to their employees despite an estimated loss of US\$248975000.00 (rupees 25 billion).

According to the press release signed by the NOC Co-Attorney and Spokesperson Shreedhar Sapkota on 24 September 2013, the CIAA has arrested the NOC Acting Executive Director Suresh Kumar Agrawal, Director Nagendra Shah and Managers Kamal Prasad Sharma and Netra Prasad Kafle to look into alleged corruption cases.

According to NOC sources, the arrestees hiked the prices of petroleum products two times within six months because of their nexus with oil smugglers and private dealers.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-bans-17-cement-industries/>

Nepal government bans 17 cement industries

Aug 21, 2013 | [Automotive](#), [Business](#)

Nepal government has banned the production of most of the cement industries in Nepal as they were found to have been producing sub-standard cement, which could jeopardize the security and sustainability of constructions.

According to the Naya Patrika daily published today, the banned cement industries include Jagadamba Cement, Butwal Cement, Choudhary Group Cement, Rolpa Cement, Arniko Cement, Aanbhu Khairani Cement, Ghorahi Cement, International Cement, MJP Cement, Maruti Cement, Kailash Cement, Star Cement, Krishna Cement, KP Cement, Shree Cement, Om Cement and Eastern Cosmos Cement.

In Nepal, the implementation of consumer rights is almost at zero level because of the all-pervasive corruption and bribery that have even decomposed the moral power of political leaderships and the nation's bureaucracy. Although the government has informed media on the ban of cement industries, the process of selling and buying has not been stopped. These banned products are being used for making housing apartments and towers.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-tribute-to-simple-ethical-founding-leader/>

Nepal: Tribute to simple, ethical founding leader

Jul 25, 2013 | [Automotive](#), [Business](#)

Nepal government paid a state honor to Nara Bahadur Karmacharya, one of the four founding members of the Communist Party of Nepal, who passed away on Wednesday morning at a local hospital in Kathmandu.

He had been suffering from a metastatic bile duct problem for several weeks and was being intensively treated at Model Hospital, Kathmandu. Pushpa Lal Shrestha as the chairperson and Nara Bahadur Karmacharya, Niranjana Govinda Baidya and Narayan Bilas Joshi had established for the first time the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) on 29 April 1949. Their party, along with the Nepali Congress led by B. P. Koirala, fought against the hereditary Rana regime.

After Karmacharya's demise, there is no more living founding leader of the Communist Party of Nepal. Currently, there are about two dozen factions and sub-factions of the Communist Party of Nepal.

Unmarried Karmacharya, while alive, used to stress on a unified left movement geared against the deep-rooted feudalism, political compradorship and imperialism.

Different party heads and senior leaders paid tribute to his dead body during the final rites while they accepted that Karmacharya contributed to left and democratic movement in Nepal's political history.

A local of Patan, Nepal's historical city, Karmacharya was still a dynamic person until the time he got seriously ill a few months back. He served as the patron of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM), whose Chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal said that his party lost a bona fide guardian.

While we contextually remember Nara Bahadur Karmacharya as one of the most ethical leaders, it is extremely regrettable that many of Nepal's leaders do not believe in ethical politics at all; as

a result, many of them have reportedly deposited a huge amount of black money under the ownership of networked and armed dons.

What to learn from Nara Bahadur Karmacharya

- He never sought any official position and official perks. He was free from greed while most of Nepal's leaders have proved extremely greedy.
- He never followed Nepal's cancerous psychological pattern of nepotism and favoritism.
- He never sought any publicity and glamor during his whole life.
- He followed the scientific Buddhist principles of truthfulness, ethical thought and behavior, and self-conscientiousness.
- He lived a simple and ethical life.
- He sacrificed most of his private life to pro-public politics—something beyond imagination for most of the leaders.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-trivialization-of-republic-and-future-direction/>

Nepal: Trivialization of Republic and Future Direction

May 29, 2013 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal on Wednesday has entered the sixth anniversary of the declaration of republic. But the power remains in the same hands as before. Only faces have changed. Intentions have not. The inherited undemocratic culture prevails. The deep-rooted undemocratic behavior continues as before. More tragically, no whereabouts of the disappeared Nepalis (estimated around 1,500) have been made public during these eight-years of the ongoing peace process. The peace process formally ends with the drafting of a new constitution, which remains to be done.

The current political crisis originating from the lack of political parties' moral sense of responsibility towards the historical promises documented in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the then Maoist rebels and the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) on 21 November 2006 still keeps people hopeful of the emergence of a new political leadership from among the existing parties that have dominated the political scenario so far.

The CPA, though a mandatory document for the peace process stakeholders to follow by letters, has not become a matter of serious consideration and review in terms of its implementation and progress. Who to hold on to power and use all the available resources while suppressing the other sides has become a core concern for the parties. Consequently, the vital peace process agenda of drafting an inclusive and federal constitution as a major tool to manage the country's

armed conflict, active from February 1996 to May 2006, has remained extremely overshadowed. Today's anniversary of the declaration of republic in Nepal has sounded more ironical and bleak amidst such political doldrums worsened by the major parties' accelerating moral degradation caused by their surrender to money and luxuries.

Trivialization of Republic

A general empirical observation indicates that most of the Nepalis with undergraduate education only know that republic means absence of active monarchy. They are unable to expect any distinct theoretical characteristics they would seek in the republican political system. All they expect in general is personal freedom and employment according to their qualifications and choices. Similarly, most of them never bothered to read the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Interim Constitution. They appear to have thought that reading the peace agreement and the Interim Constitution is the job of political workers. This empirically obtained information discloses why most of the people still remain apathetic to their own sufferings. Nepal's political parties and intellectual moderators appear very weak in persuading hand-to-mouth people to seek to know something specific about the ongoing peace process and its fundamentals.

In this context, Maoist party workers in the eastern and western rural areas are more worried about the peace process, which, they believe, has already been derailed as per the intentions of those adamantly rigid against democratic changes in the country. They take much interest in the peace process because they were directly involved in armed conflict. They have seriously realized the need of peace in the rest of their life. But the Maoist party workers living in Kathmandu and with better access to their central leadership seem to have enjoyed their own rhetorical communication and that produced by their leaders at the helm. In the villages of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur, supporters of the former Maoist rebels, the Nepali Congress and the Emaalay (UML) admit to not having seen any proper dialogue on the definitions of republic, federalism and conflict management in the country. Their political consciousness is apparently confined to partisan quarrels and the subsequent reactions.

This real scenario based on the empirical observation and bottom conversations at grassroots level could be a clue to understanding the trivialization of republic declared on 28 May 2008.

Is this the republic that the political parties, definitely including the Maoists, understand? If they are misinformed, it is urgent that they understand it from a genuine perspective of republic.

The declared republic would not have been trivialized if the power that replaced feudal monarchy had:

- Confiscated all the illicit properties, including land.
- Dismantled all the feudal foundations rooted in the educational system, financial system, judiciary and the rule application apparatuses that protected the privileges of lords continuously overruling the written rules and systems.

- Dismantled the nationwide networks of smugglers and blackmarketeers that de facto rule Nepal, captivating people's mind and freedom of expression.
- Made its own moral character transparent, especially as regards its relationship with the business entity and foreign countries.
- Stopped the all-out privatization of drinking water from which crime-minded money mongers have hugely profited by selling unhealthy and unprocessed water for exorbitant prices.
- Taken actions against human traffickers who believe that human beings are beef to sell in the international market.
- Had issued a decree through the Legislative-Parliament to completely close the Indo-Nepal border and apply the international passport system.
- Managed a public transport system, which is a vital component of people's time management and national productivity.
- Applied a strategy to curb the shameless mafia-ization of education and health services in the country.
- Had staunchly stood in favor of the transformative agenda clearly cited in the Preamble of the CPA as well as in its body.

Counter to people's expectations from the declaration of republic, the leading parties, viz., the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the Nepali Congress and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) or also referred to as Emaalay in brief, have kept many things nontransparent as to why they have been lingering around without creating an environment for drafting a new constitution as stipulated in the CPA. They have not worked to create a forum for discourses and analysis on peace accord contents that need to be unavoidably incorporated appropriately in the new constitution. The Baidya faction, the split-out of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), has become a bargaining chip used by the Nepali Congress and the UML. Thus, none of them seem to have concentrated on explaining the meaning of republic and federalism so that people could grasp some idea about the accepted version of changes in the country. This trivialization of republic, accompanied by the steepy moral degradation of the political leaderships, should not be made an excuse for stifling democracy and human rights.

Future Direction

Civil war is a huge global industry. There are global producers and traders of weapons, especially targeted at the third world countries. Just for the sake of such global producers and traders, the Nepalis cannot afford another civil war. There may be first-time war investors from outside of Nepal. There will not be the direct form of war investment like the one that happened in Egypt, Libya and Syria. Egyptians, Libyans and Syrians need democracy and human rights. The more peaceful the political movement, the greater its positive impact and productivity. The greater the investment in the full-scale civil war, the worse its long-term consequences. You can and will see such consequences in those countries. Therefore, should we keep the Nepalis alert-minded of such consequences and the ill-motives of war, there is not likelihood of another civil

war though some mercenaries in the plains of Nepal are estimated to have been planning for such a war in the name of separation or territorial independence.

Amidst such possibilities, the Nepali society needs to find a way out for managing their national affairs. As political leadership is not an overnight construction, the experienced, ethical political workers from all the major parties, need to create a common core working force to defend the moral values of republican democracy. While the decomposing and merging processes of political leaderships will continue, the Nepali mass media should emphasize on reporting from the ground and on bringing out primary information for increasing people's judgmental power. Merely confining people to parroted speeches at a news conference in cities or hotels will not equip audiences with authentic and objective information.

The future direction of Nepal mainly depends on how the majority of Nepalis respond to the crises created knowingly and unknowingly by their existing political leaderships.

<https://www.groundreport.com/world-press-freedom-day-professionalism-and-moral-responsibility-stressed-in-nepal/>

World Press Freedom Day: Professionalism and Moral Responsibility Stressed in Nepal

May 3, 2013 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

An academic seminar jointly organized on Friday by the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) and the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Kantipur City in Kathmandu emphasized on the moral standard and professionalism in media work. The seminar under the banner entitled **Press Freedom for Better Nepal: Dynamize the Nepali Minds** also shed light on the need to address the overall transformation agenda of the Nepali society.

Addressing about 50 participants, most of them master level mass communication and journalism students at Kantipur City college, Prof. R. K. Regmee highlighted the need to address diverse issues, with digital divide and lack of communication infrastructures in mind. Pointing out to the potential benefits of press freedom, he said that press freedom was not for brainwashing and imposition but for offering options and alternatives in a pluralistic democratic society.

Representing the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), former FNJ President Suresh Acharya admitted that even mainstream journalists have moral problems. He expressed his concern that journalism in Nepal, despite the drastic growth in the number of print and electronic media, requires much work to upgrade professionalism.

Representing the participating students, 10 Master of Arts in Mass Communication and Journalism students supported the idea that professionalism and a deep sense of social

responsibility geared at the positive transformation of the Nepali society were needed while using press freedom. Some of them even questioned media experts about why new comers in journalism often become victims of attack while those affiliated to the most powerful media and parties remain less proactive role players in the fight for journalists' safety.

The participants unanimously voiced their concern over the deteriorating safety of journalists in Nepal.

The seminar was organized to mark the World Press Freedom Day.

<https://www.groundreport.com/chinese-president-xi-jinping-seeks-reconfirmation-on-one-china-policy-from-nepal/>

Chinese President Xi Jinping seeks reconfirmation on One China Policy from Nepal

Apr 18, 2013 [|Politics, World](#)

Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM) Chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Chinese President Xi Jinping did have a dialogue on Thursday on Sino-Nepal issues.

On the occasion, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to boost win-win cooperation between Nepal and China, the Chinese news agency Xinhua stated.

Publicly disseminated information confirmed the dialogue had mainly focused on China's concern on the use of the Nepali territory for free Tibet causes though the President did not fail to appreciate Nepal's efforts to maintain her One-China Policy.

Dahal expressed his expectation of more financial and technical help from China to facilitate the development of fundamental economic structures in Nepal.

The Chinese President strongly advised Nepal to work for political stability without which Nepal would face difficulty proceeding with political independence.

Nepal is in a serious political dilemma following the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly elected in 2008 to draft a new pro-change constitution as a tool to manage the 10-year armed insurgency across Nepal.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-oligarchic-politics-drowns-people-in-profound-despair/>

Nepal: Oligarchic politics drowns people in profound despair

Apr 9, 2013 [Politics](#), [World](#)

April 10 is the fifth anniversary of the historical Constituent Assembly (CA) elections in Nepal. The elected CA failed to draft a new constitution nationally agreed upon as a tool to manage the 10-year Maoist insurgency that had confined the deep-rooted ruling elites and its state apparatuses to its Kathmandu premises. Following a royal coup on 01 February 2005, the parliamentary parties that believed in peaceful politics and the warring Maoist insurgents that disrupted all state forces across the country agreed to manage the conflict peacefully through joint anti-monarchy political movement aimed at radically drafting a new constitution. However, the conflict developed in a different form following the emergence of former Maoist rebels as the largest political party while the most powerful traditional parties, viz., the Nepali Congress and the Emalay (UML), were propelled into defensive positions. Because of the fundamentally different perspectives and socio-psychological settings of the former Maoist rebels and the NC-UML forces, the CA became defunct and was dissolved by a verdict of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Khil Raj Regmi, now the Prime Minister, extremely debated.

Following the dissolution of the elected Constituent Assembly that abolished monarchy on 28 May 2008, the political parties have not yet explained to people if they adhere to their previous declarations of federal republican system. People suspect that they may work with a more regressive mindset.

It is not yet known why Nepal's Supreme Court—against the very principle of the Separation of Power—interfered with the historically elected CA and its delegated parliament by dissolving them with a political motive.

It is also not known why the same Chief Justice has agreed to become the country's Prime Minister of the partyless government that includes monarchists and landlords, officially recorded as government ex-bureaucrats.

It is equally remains doubtful why Nepal's former rebels—the Maoists—, the NC, the UML, and other parties have handed over their roles to a partyless autocratic team in the name of an election cabinet.

It, similarly, remains a surprise why ardent advocates of democracy, reputed critics and analysts have interpreted the political anarchy from business elites' perspectives rather than from perspectives of the suffering masses.

But one thing is clear: the Nepalis are still ruled by oligarchies. Markets seem controlled by criminal forces with a political nexus. People feel they are helpless because no political organizations have apparently worked to alleviate their sufferings. The money that political parties get to run their party organizations and activities is absolutely non-transparent. They are

extremely weak in moral terms. But they tend to use money, muscle and media to run their politics. This character of theirs clearly demonstrates a need for a radical way of politics based on moral principles.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-women-plight-and-liberation-strategy/>

Nepali women: plight and liberation strategy

Mar 8, 2013 [News](#), [Opinion](#)

The human society is a culture created by human beings. So is gender concept. So are countless discriminations. In a sense, what human beings think, practice and follow is a culture. No force beyond our own mind creates cultures among us. In other words, what we knowingly or unknowingly follow is a culture. Culture once set does become a habit. Habits become automatic, mechanical. But we can change them better. We can replace them in certain cases. We can reduce the degree of our deep-rooted habits. This concept can apply to fighting gender discriminations in general and discriminations against women in particular.

Problems are more or less, similar, globally. Relative differences are natural. But the women of the South or the North face almost the same plight—discriminations and violence against them. Why do such crises have persisted for so long despite continuous struggles seeking their management? This is a question worth exercising over.

Since we rarely try to replace the culture already deep-rooted in our psychology, gender disparity exists. Blockbuster researchers with Hollywood-sized budgets can verify this statement if they want.

One can reiterate that we behave the way we do because of cultures deep-rooted in our psychology. Women and men behave each other the way they do because of settings in their psychology.

A few hundred Nepali women, representing various political, socio-economic and religious-cultural settings, took out to the streets of Kathmandu on the 8-March occasion on Friday. This is positive. But are the vanguard walkers, organized under varying banners, conscious enough to produce cause-and-

effect analyses regarding the plight of the Nepali women? Educated and well-do-do women were rarely seen in the 8-March rallies. Actresses, beauty queens, advertising models and other professional women were not seen their leading other women. Almost 99.9 percent women seen in the streets belonged to the working class category. They earn minimum wages; they face survival crisis. They face an extreme difficulty sending their children to school. They want to gain human dignity. They want to make their voices heard regarding the application of democracy and human rights in their practical life. For these major reasons, they chanted slogans in the streets.

These working class women, who represented the concerns of the majority of marginalized women in the country, need academic, professional and legal empowerment to achieve the level of dignity they desire or seek. Those in privileged positions, with academic, professional and legal strength, must not neglect the plight of the majority of women.

Five Star Hotel advocacy, seminar presentations and glossy reports are beyond the reach of the majority of rural masses. Instead of squandering millions of dollars in mere advocacy activities in Kathmandu and other cities, we rethink to take our advocacy to women's doors? Door-to-door advocacy and interpretation, in the long-run, will enrich the women politically, economically and socially. As women liberation is not a quick-rich project dedicated to the wives of senior political leaders, justices and established hereditary rulers, the access of the greatest number of rural women to women liberation movement is a must.

Similarly, the nature of advocacy itself requires transformation.

Women liberation movement, so far confined to vote collection and reactions over the existing fate, needs transformation in itself. In other words, it must seriously and proactively address the political, socio-economic, religious-cultural and moral transformation of the Nepali society. Right politics leads to right policies. For making politics right, all forces, including women, need to foreground right agenda.

Foregrounding right agenda implies highlighting universally acclaimed human rights.

The marginalized cannot buy education and health. Without their guaranteed access to education and health, they cannot grow better. But all-out privatization of education and health services has jeopardized their life.

Guaranteed education leads to the enjoyability of empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Guaranteed education not only empowers women and men economically but also empowers them politically, intellectually and morally. Politically, intellectually and morally enhanced women and men can contribute to the accelerated progress of their nation.

However, the existing realities are formidably incompatible with the fundamental meaning of democracy and human rights. Governments of the world have made education and health mere market commodities. Those who have money can buy education and health. No matter how heavy taxes have been imposed on people, massive exploitation has equally been imposed on them in the name of education and health.

The Nepali women, side by side with other progressive forces, need to highlight these basic parameters for their empowerment. Without addressing these vitals, it becomes difficult to develop their critical and analytical capacity.

Without raising women's level of critical and analytical capacity, they will not be able to differentiate between liberating education and commoditization education. Liberating education scientifically mobilizes their mind while commoditization education confines them to their saleswomanship role dedicated to the existing corrupt culture. The trend of misusing women as market objects and further enslaving them will continue unless they are given critical and analytical education. This is what the Nepali women vanguards need to assess in the light of the global feminine day.

2012

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-former-party-activist-slaps-party-chief-on-face/>

Nepal: Former party activist slaps party chief on face

Nov 16, 2012 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

The Chairperson of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM) Pushpa Kamal Dahal has got a slap on his face from one of his former activists at a festival tea ceremony held Friday in Kathmandu.

While shaking hands with Dahal to express Deepawali best wishes, Padam Kunwar of Baglung district slapped the UCPNM Chairperson.

After the slap, several other angry party cadres present at the ceremony beat Kunwar, whom the police have hospitalized now.

Meanwhile an emergency meeting of the UCPNM has issued a statement referring to the slap as a preplanned action intended to create a confrontational situation and disturb the peace process.

While the UCPN-M sees it not as a mere show of anger of a citizen, the Nepali mass media have widely covered the incident as a wrath expressed by a former Maoist cadre.

Police have told media persons that Kunwar's family members were involved in the UCPNM, though they have shifted to the newly formed party called the Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (CPNM).

In January 2011, one Devi Prasad Regmi had slapped Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) Chairperson Jhala Nath Khanal on his face in Itahari district.

More recently on 29 September 2012, Nepali Congress activist Prabesh Basnet had attempted at his own party President Sushil Koirala with a wooden frame at a program in Kathmandu. Other party cadres had saved Koirala, blocking the attack.

No truth behind previous slaps has been discovered yet. The government is reportedly engaged in investigation on the slap case.

The overall case analysis proves that it is not a security issue at all. It is a political issue aimed at demoralizing political leaders, who have at times demonstrated their moral irresponsibility. As it is clear that a culture of slapping leaders on their faces and gaining a week's glamor does not correct the all-pervasive corrupt culture in the Nepali society, the slapper is likely to have been provoked by a possible personal benefit.

The mass media, instead of superficializing the coverage of news and views geared at intra-party feuds, need to focus on creating a rich and strategic public opinion in favor of better changes and against corrupt political leaderships, including all-pervasive corruption in media, judiciary, security, bureaucratic and business sectors.

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<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-chaudhary-group-commits-crime-against-public-health/>

Nepal: Chaudhary Group commits crime against public health

Nov 10, 2012 | [Health & Science](#), [Politics](#)

According to Nepal's government-run daily newspaper the *Gorkhapatra* published today, a shopkeeper in Saptari district has found decomposed slurry and insects in all the packets of Rio juice produced by CG Foods (Nepal) Pvt. Ltd.

The daily has quoted one Mohan Bharati, the shopkeeper at Mahuli, Saptari, as acknowledging that all packets of Rio juice were found to have insects and rotten slurry inside. He was reported to have discovered this problem

while he inserted a straw pipe into the packet to give to his granddaughter. As soon as he smelled very bad, he is said to have opened the packet to see what was wrong. Upon finding the rotten slurry and insects inside the packet, he reportedly checked all other packets in which he found the same problem.

Civil Society members in Saptari are reportedly preparing for agitation and health advocacy while the concerned company has dismissed the issue as nothing that affects its business. The attitude of the company goes against the often quoted expression of Chaudhary Group President Mr. Binod Kumar Chaudhary **"Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution."** If people have to believe his statement, the problem that has occurred in this incident is the outcome of ill-intention, insincerity, unworthy direction and ill-implementation.

In Nepal, most of the parents are ignorant about the quality of such beverage no matter how many times such problems have been pointed out by the mass media.

CG Foods (Nepal) Pvt. Ltd. is a company under the Chaudhary Group, a prominent industrial house working closely with the political parties and the government.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-dalits-beaten-for-requesting-access-to-drinking-water/>

Nepal: Dalits beaten for requesting access to drinking water

Sep 14, 2012 [Politics](#), [World](#)

Two **Dalits** Karna Bahadur BK and Bimala BK in Dailekh district have been beaten for requesting access to drinking water, the state-owned Gorkhapatra daily reports on Saturday.

According to the report, locals Jay Bahadur Bista and three others of Lakuri Village Development Committee beat them as they requested their village administration to manage access to drinking water for the **Dalit** community at Ward No. 4 of the same village.

Jay Bahadur and his men had argued against providing the Dalit community an access to drinking water while the victims had argued that it was their natural right to access to drinking water.

The victims currently spend two hours a day for collecting their drinking water.

In Nepali villages afflicted with massive illiteracy, political and socio-economic inter-caste discriminations, superstitions, the Dalits (also socially tagged as 'untouchable castes') are widely discriminated against as ritually 'impure' to co-exist with other so-called high castes. When the Dalits seek to voice their rights as human beings, they are more likely to face assaults in such remote Nepali villages. Even the most educated persons in such villages spontaneously follow the psychological patterns of caste discrimination in the name of social traditions or beliefs.

The state forces, mainly the law application mechanisms, have failed to empower and mainstream the oppressed Dalit community despite the constitutional provisions intended to implement their fundamental and human rights. Those violating the law of equality are never punished as regards the discrimination against the Dalit community.

Most of the Dalit leaders, belonging to different parties, serve partisan interests as vote collectors.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-pioneer-republican-thinker-passes-away-legacy-study-required/>

Nepal: Pioneer republican thinker passes away; legacy study required

Sep 12, 2012 [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal's pioneer republican thinker Ram Raja Prasad Singh passed away on Wednesday morning at about 06:00 according to Kathmandu time. The Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu circulated this information after 06:15.

Mr. Singh, 77, had been brought to Kathmandu due to the worsening condition of his health. He had been suffering from multiple health problems, especially those related to heart, kidney, lungs, and nerves.

In the 1960s, Mr. Singh had initiated Nepal's republican seed movement by harshly advocating against monarchy and calling on parties to go for republican setup of Nepal. Through University graduate election, as per the then Panchayat provision, he became a member of the Legislature, then known as the Rashtriya Panchayat. However, he was immediately imprisoned for his argument that monarchy was a burden to the Nepalis because it used huge public resources irrationally for luxurious purposes.

According to the Nepali language book Ganatantra ko laagi sangharsha (Struggle for Republic) written by Sitaram Baral, a Nepali journalist, Ram Raja Prasad Singh had even met the world known revolutionary fighter Che Guevara.

Talking to different Nepali media in the post-1990 period, Mr. Singh had said that his political ideology was for state welfare system and social justice based on the equitable distribution of resources to the people, not for monopolization and wealth concentration that would lead to poverty perpetuation and criminalization of politics among the people and parties in the country.

In May 2008, former Maoist rebels made him a presidential candidate in the Legislative-Parliament. The coalition of 22 parties led by the Nepali Congress and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) defeated him—the difference was quite narrow. Most of the Nepalis had expected him to become Nepal's first President out of public respect as he had fundamentally revolted against monarchy in the most explicit terms.

The performance of his group called Janabaadi Morcha does not appear very effective, except for the lead he took in exploding time bombs in the major powerful centers in Kathmandu in 1995. The monarchy announced a death penalty against him for the explosions in which about half a dozen people lost their lives. He saved his life by escaping to India. He however returned to

Saptari, his home district in Nepal after the absolute monarchy accepted the multiparty democracy in which there would be no capital punishment.

Mr. Singh was a visionary republican thinker. He was the first person to implant seed of republican thought into people's minds in the most apparent form.

Mr. Singh was a person of moral quality. He never conceded to the idea of separatism under Madhesh or Hills. Most of the Madheshi parties and leaders, though they praise him in appearance, do not like him because he never cooperated with them to divide Nepal. Even the most powerful and glamorized leaders in Nepal need to learn from Ram Raja Prasad Singh, especially his commitment to national unity amidst diversity and a simple way of living.

Basically, he was a thinker, not a leader. A leader makes organizations and networks for mass mobilization. He depended on selected cadres. His greatest weakness was his incapability of producing more republican leaders, who could genuinely work to transform the Nepali society in every way possible and necessary. Currently, most of the parties and leaders think and behave like kings and sub-kings and even seem to have been prepared for restoring monarchy should their material interests be fulfilled.

There might have been valuable principles and parameters of republican democracy behind what Mr. Singh lived for. His colleagues, disciples, family members, relatives and contemporaneous intellectuals could be the major sources for further research.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-conflicts-remain-peace-process-in-dilemma/>

Nepal: Conflicts remain, peace process in dilemma

May 27, 2012 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

The Nepalis witnessed a black day on 27 May 2012 as the Constituent Assembly (CA) got dissolved at midnight without declaring a new constitution awaited for four years. The CA, which was considered extremely inclusive in the world, was elected on 10 April 2008 with the goal of drafting a new constitution meant to address the causes and effects of the 10-year Maoist insurgency in the country. The Supreme Court, in response to a writ petition, had ordered the peace process stakeholders not to extend the CA deadline. Many considered this verdict as a political vendetta against those who favored changes.

Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, at midnight on Sunday, declared a new election on 22 November 2012 for a fresh mandate; however, no consensus on it has yet been created.

The major political parties, signatories to the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) were extremely nervous and puzzled over whether to accept a federal system based on ethnic identity or non-ethnic identity amidst threatening interest groups' continuous pretexts across the country, including those in Kathmandu. Consequently, they could not take any decision regarding the finalization of the incomplete draft of the new constitution.

The dissolution of the historical CA is a natural outcome since the Nepalis' power to resist the bureaucratic, political, constitutional and communal hurdles created on the path of dismantling the deep-rooted undemocratic structures was very low. The Maoist insurgents had signed the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) on 21 November 2006 on condition that the elected Constituent Assembly (CA) draft a new constitution with federal republicanism marked by state restructuring and inclusive characteristics. The overwhelming majority, in a series of massive protests defying 19-day military curfew in April 2006, had shown their aspirations for total political and socio-economic transformation in Nepal dominated by landlordly casteist rulers.

Historically, the former Maoist rebels had given up their armed insurgency by joining hands with the parliamentary political parties to ensure restructuring changes the political and socio-economic sectors. Should peace process-defined changes be applied, elite rulers would lose many of their existing privileges in different sectors. Nepal's major political parties, not psychologically prepared yet on how to transform the Nepali society, lingered to their power embezzlement-oriented disputes regarding the nature of state and federal systems.

Nepal's peace process had got further complicated after 17 parties led by the Unified Marxist Leninist and the Nepali Congress apparently favored the military supremacy over the civilian supremacy when they did not want to take the issue of sacking the then Rukmangud Katuwal either to the court or to the parliament but preferred to force the ceremonial President to take his unconstitutional decision to re-appoint the army chief. In the same context, Nepal's CA Chairman Subhas Nembwang created a further dilemma by rejecting a motion registered against an unconstitutional step of the country's president. As there exists the political, socio-economic and religious-cultural environment in which the stronger suppresses the weaker, the smarter cheats the duller, the educated suppresses the illiterate, the

richer exploits the poorer, the male dominates the female, the dishonest governs the honest, and the guilty suppresses the innocent, acute conflicts and confrontations among various strata of the rulers and the ruled will continue in Nepal.

As part of conflict transformation, the political forces in Nepal must follow the path of right understanding, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration in order to prove their worth of politics for ordinary masses. These are the practical principles developed by Gautam Buddha 1556 years ago. They are applicable in implementing democracy from bottom to top levels.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-perspectives-pragmatic-relevancy-of-buddhist-eightfold-path-for-implementing-human-rights/>

Nepali perspectives: Pragmatic relevancy of Buddhist Eightfold Path for implementing human rights

May 5, 2012 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

The Nepalis and others with faith in the Buddhist philosophy highly respect the date of birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama the Buddha. Today is the 2556th birthday of Gautama the Buddha, who was born in a Shakya family in what is now the south western Nepal. Today is his birthday as well as the day of his enlightenment and death.

His philosophy is viewed the most scientific in the world. The world is taking more interest in understanding him. Therefore, this article is dedicated to all the fellow humans who sooner or later will understand the Buddhist philosophy as the most relevant, pragmatic and scientific methodology to deal with the crises in the human society.

The growing human rights violations on a global scale imply the underling weaknesses on the side of the ruling classes because they are primarily responsible for formulating policies and strategies guided by insight and moral virtues. Focused merely on voluptuous materialism and vulpine ambitions, the global politics is becoming more crime-and-war-oriented. While the greatest majority of the globe have been suffering indescribably

from the heinous human rights violations, the number of paper commitments and human rights nongovernmental organizations is multiplying.

Along with the rise in human rights violations, an increase in the volume of human rights advocacy is natural.

No matter how many international commitment papers have been signed among the UN member nations, human rights violations are growing in newer forms.

Democratic movements are going on throughout the world. Many developing nations have adopted a democratic political system, more or less. But paper-rich commitments are not matching with human behavior, especially the state level. The vulnerable masses have been showcased but their problems are getting deeper. Newer civil wars are being created, with lust for money that is possible from massive arms production and trade. The criminalization, all-pervasive in global politics, is no longer confined to local legal Acts. They definitely come under the universal human rights purview. The human beings all over the world are suffering from human rights violations. Nevertheless, the world appears to have taken little interest in identifying the true causes behind the multiplication of suffering. Since the world is suffering from human rights crises, no individual effort or local law can deal with such a global issue. Is the matter of global search of an alternative medication that can empower the Legislatures, the Executives and the Judiciaries? Such empower, primarily, must be of a moral nature. Because most of the crises in the human society originate from the moral crisis.

The countries' official apparatuses and nongovernmental forces that try to or address the frequently occurring human rights violations require higher insight and moral foundations. But only official means and legal methods cannot treat such violations. What we require most in this context is our perception beyond our official provisions.

To understand about human rights violations scientifically and suggest appropriate ways to minimize them, a far clearer perspective is available in the Buddhist philosophy.

The Buddhist philosophy, though also considered a religion, is a psycho-universe science, which is primarily concerned with the functioning of human mind in relation with the Universe. Although Buddhism as a psycho-universe science sounds a new term, it is not. This concept is originally human and is as old as the human existence.

Buddhism as a science deals with cause-and-effect analysis methods. It is concerned with mind-body relationship. It does not imagine a soul detached from the body. Instead, it interprets mind as a mechanism within the body, which is a particle of the Universe. When the body dies, so does mind. Mind does exist along with the body. It now is clear that mind is a composition of chemicals within the brain. However, ritualists and cultists may debate about the definition and location of soul. But the Buddhist philosophy in essence perceives brain process as a mind. This is what one needs to understand for making out causes of human rights violations.

I assume the Buddhist Eightfold path is a more practical methodology to promote human rights culture and social justice. Though ignored or neglected, the human society will sooner or later pay attention to this most scientific discipline of understanding the relationship of mind and matter.

Briefly considering the contents within the Buddhist Eightfold Path would be a clue to further study:

RIGHT VIEW

The right view as propounded by the Buddhist philosophy belongs to the wisdom domain. This component of the Eightfold Path is mainly related to understanding the world and developing one's insight into the mind and matter. This is also known as the right understanding. Perception of the ground realities and their roots is essential in order to scientifically address the human rights issues with a view to reducing the rates and frequencies of human rights violations.

All sectors, especially media and political forces, need to grasp the very idea of the Buddhist right view approach, so vital for perceiving facts and data. Media people need to dig up accurate details in order to create moral pressures for the political forces to formulate accurate policies. Input is very important for output in any sector. The right view supply accurate input that

ultimately influences not only the output of a policy but also the fate of mankind.

Today wrong perceptions rule the world. Widely distributing gun licenses to citizens is not only a wrong perception of rulers but also a violent method of politics. This wrong perception of the security issue in the human society promotes the violent path of politics. It creates an environment for war and cruelties. It is not only an anti-democratic but also an anti-humanity approach that the concerned nations must abandon as soon as possible. They cannot protect their citizens with guns and bombs. They cannot guarantee world peace and order by producing more weapons and widely selling them in the global market. This wrong practice of global politics originates from the wrong perception of the reality. The global scenario of the world demands a right understanding of the problem. In absence of the right view, one is likely to commit crimes. For example, crime and politics may sound synonymous if wrong views prevail all-pervasively. Right view leads to right speech, right effort, right action, right livelihood, right mindfulness and right concentration.

Cause-and-effect analysis and right understanding, as per Buddhist teaching, is advisable in this respect. In fact, the right view approach can help to reduce the human rights violations through scientific conflict transformation. It is quite essential for all forces in the human society to try to abandon their wrong views and enter the right view.

RIGHT RESOLVE

Right Resolve refers to the right intention. It is also related to wisdom. Human beings shape up their thoughts that determine a certain pattern of behavior. Mental mapping matters a lot in developing courses of actions. This has been little considered in the political sector, the headquarters of human society operations. So long as wrong politics prevails, rights actions cannot be expected. For example, human beings expect a good fruit of democracy. But wrong thoughts dominate the global politics; as a result, more wrongs actions causes more suffering.

Good things are chanted and documented. Paper commitments are not enough for letting people taste the fruit of democracy. Right intentions are

essential. Hidden intentions can neither be seen nor are written anywhere. Propagandism is still a serious problem in the world.

The Buddhist approach of the right intention (resolve) is a vital tool to make our society better. Evil intentions lead our society to pain and society, ever more.

Right intentions on the side of all the forces in the human society are the prerequisites for implementing human rights, minimizing their violations.

To develop the habit of right resolve or intention, it is essential to exercise over abandoning evil desires. Evil desires are those that one attempts to fulfill at the cost of other's happiness or life.

It is a proven truth that ill-intentions cause the criminalization of the world while good intentions help to create a humanist world. Today's global peoples have been ill-trained to believe in the politics of war involving global arms production and trade worth billions of dollars while the majority of human beings remain deprived of their most basic human rights, such as, right to food, housing and clothing. Planned wars and massacres have violated human beings' right to life itself. Today's educated peoples in the globe have succumbed to ill-intentioned politics. They have legitimized crimes committed against themselves. This, for this reason, is the moment for us to seriously consider the Buddhist approach to the Right Resolve, so vital for maintaining the very humanness.

RIGHT SPEECH

Lies rule us. Propaganda makes our brain weary and less productive. Our brain is the most fertile thing compared to other parts of our body. However, we are stuffed with wrong speeches.

Right speech actually means abstaining from lying and abusive communication. The Buddhist Right Speech method is mainly related to our everyday communication behavior.

The Right Speech plays a vital role in promoting healthy interpersonal relationships in the human society. Good interpersonal relationships are the bedrock for healthy international relations and friendship. No negotiations can be healthy unless we adopt the right speech.

Especially, media persons and politics forces need to show their special concern as regards truth. Only truthful information leads us to right decision-making process.

The Right Speech is a way to promote a human rights-friendly atmosphere. It is a tool to teach young generations about good values to follow. The development of good values in the youngsters' psychology means the reduction of human rights violations.

The Right Speech saves us from misleading behavior. Wrong or ill-speeches mislead us. Misled people are involved in human rights violations. Misled rulers and their bureaucrats cannot control crimes.

Besides, the Right Speech helps us to control hatred, fanaticism, lunaticism that emerge out of misguided political exercises. The Right Speech encourages peace and sisterhood in the human society.

RIGHT ACTION

Right action cannot originate on its own. It is founded on the Right Understanding, the Right Intention and the Right Speech.

We suffer from adverse consequences because of wrong views, ill-intentions, wrong speeches and wrong actions. If we cannot be aware of our own actions, we must consider ourselves superstitious and thoughtless.

We reap deaths because we sow violence in politics. The global war traders still hold the key of global politics. Their perceptions, intentions and actions lead us towards more sufferings. It is people's right to seek rights actions. For this they need to develop a cause-and-effect analysis approach in their learning process. Unless the peoples of the globe become mere paper votes, they cannot change the world from the war zone to the peace zone.

Corruption, ill-governance, robbery, murder and more are against the Buddhist approach of the Right Action. Today, embezzlement of resources in the name of democracy is growing. People suffer from more exploitation when ill-actions replace right actions. There is no doubt that the Right Action approach is essential in the implementation of human rights on a global scale.

The young generations need to be educated and trained in molding good habit patterns—a sure way to adopting the Right Action approach.

RIGHT LIVELIHOOD

There is a growing tendency to live by crimes. Crimes are huge industries on a global scale. It means the global politics is getting acceleratingly criminalized. We cannot collect mental satisfaction by blaming a few leaders. Because they represent a certain number of people, they can be held responsible to some extent. But the process of criminalization cannot be understood from the superficial education. The Buddhist Eightfold Path does contain the methods of understanding roots of the crimes.

Since wrong views, wrong intentions, wrong messages, and wrong actions shape our generations in a wrong way, they happen to take up wrong livelihoods. They adopt criminal methods to earn more money.

Corruption and bribery are crimes, not only wrong livelihood. Exploitation by human beings of human beings, though a vague concept, is a serious problem because it is related to the intention of concerned people.

Due to corrupt and ill-intentioned politics under the tag of this or that, people unconsciously take up wrong path of livelihood. The lack of the Right Livelihood leads our society towards adverse consequences.

RIGHT EFFORT

The right effort is related to putting good thoughts into practice by perseverance, persistence and continuity. It is an exercise of generating will power to implement one's good thoughts. Abandonment of wrong thoughts is vital in maintaining the Right Effort.

The Right Effort is the practicum of good values. It leads the practitioners to greater skillfulness and expertise. Thus, the Right Effort as a practical tool can help us implement human rights more wisely.

RIGHT MINDFULNESS

Human beings have to become attentive to how their own mind is functioning. They are the masters of their own minds. They cannot

disconnect their mind from actions or from the real world. Becoming aware and alert-minded of one's own ongoing actions is the condition of the Right Mindfulness. Those negligent of their own actions cannot remain accountable to people. For the clear perception of the present, right mindfulness is necessary.

Human rights implementation suffers not because there are not official treaties and protocols but because there is a great deal of absence of right mindfulness.

Policymakers, implementing mechanisms and other stakeholders cannot implement human rights provisions globally agreed upon if they cannot be attentive to what they have promised to do.

RIGHT CONCENTRATION

The Right Concentration is the singleness of mind. It is the condition of mind's deeper involvement perceiving the world. If human beings really practice the Right Concentration to the degree possible for them, achievements in the human rights implementation will be superb.

Through the Right Concentration, human beings sharpen their perceptions. They do not become hateful. They become equanimous, not prejudiced.

Equanimity is a condition of minds' condition of becoming detached from prejudices or reactions. It is the state in which human beings can perceive the reality and move progressively without craving to cling to what causes pain. In other words, the Right Concentration denotes a condition of remaining neutral to pain and pleasure. In more practical terms, the craze for more pleasure leads to more pain. Tendency to collect pleasure by creating pain to others is growing, which is not the source of happiness but the source of suffering not only for the victimized but also for the victimizers.

Unfortunately, today's rulers have ill-concentration on war race. They campaign for wars to maintain their supremacy. They sow ill-thoughts and live on them. Consequently, human rights violations are multiplying geometrically.

Should all the components of the Eightfold Path be considered collectively and as a system, we can find it worth exploring more as regards creating a better human society through the implementation of human rights.

<https://www.groundreport.com/international-womens-day-a-reminder/>

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: A REMINDER

mar 7, 2012 | politics, world

The International Women's Day observed with various programs here and there every year primarily reminds us of how the existing global political, socio-economic and religious-cultural structures driven by the money-and-money-only addictive psychology have perpetuated the slavery of women.

The ardent gender advocates, analysts and strategists have for ages been covering up the truth that women have always been commodified as market objects. In the commodification process, it is unlikely to imagine that their human rights are protected with conscious efforts.

Education itself has been used as a commodification tool rather than as a liberating method. The more showbiz-centered education is given, the more superficial generations grow, resulting also in the superficialization of women's own perspectives. The gender advocates generally are not an exception to this fact.

Let us cite a Nepali instance of how superficial gender experts are about the suffering of the Nepali women. Dhegani Devi, a widow in Chitwan district, had been murdered on 17 February 2012 by those who accused her of being a witch. Prominent gender experts produced a unanimous conclusion in their Op-Ed Page writing that women are being tortured or murdered just because those involved in such anti-women activities were the victims of superstition and ignorance.

Their analysis has glossed over the roots of the frequently-occurring problem. It defends the existing structures geared towards profiting by

the massive exploitation and perpetuation of sufferings. Are the superstition and ignorance the cardinal causes of the torture and murder of women in the name of witches?

But the truth is different. Superstition and ignorance are the effects of actions founded on ill-intentions, ill-effortfulness, ill-mindfulness and ill-concentration. They are directly related to the existing political, socio-economic and religious-cultural structures that institutionalize anti-democratic and anti-justice psychological and behavioral patterns within our minds. We have always let them go unquestioned and have always blamed on individuals for everything bad that happens around us. The Nepali model of gender analysis is a derivative from the global patterns established so far regarding women advocacy. They have always focused on the consequences publicizing them as causes while they have glossed over the rooted causes.

A genuine democracy—not phony and disguised democracy—can elevate women as fully dignified human beings. Very often it is difficult to distinguish genuine democracy from phony or disguised democracy because both of them advocate the principles of democracy and human rights. But the difference between them can be found from what they do practically. Phony democracy trumpets but renews the environment that de-humanizes the women's lives.

Genuine democracy is a vision that sticks to the well-intentioned implementation of the universal principles of human rights and democracy through the creation of apparatuses accountable to people. So long as generations are trained or brainwashed to stick to phony democracy that institutionalizes human rights violations as a permanent profit-making industry, there will be no better human dignity of women and other communities.

We have been labeling the current rule in the globe as democracy, be it so or not, the main reason being our not being able to think and behave substantially differently.

A vital point to note is that women's liberation cannot result from the ideology that gives a logic that women are born for catering to corporate profiteers' market needs. Women's liberation does not come from the ideology that grades women as sex-trade goods. How can you say that your mother or sister or wife should rent her sexual organ as a dignified profession? When our existing structures have rejected to provide even basic human rights to industrial workers, what's the point of demanding women's right to rent their sexual organ registered under the nation's Company Act? When we preach individual freedom in this respect, can we forget that there are the structures that incessantly produce the consequences that we face at individual levels?

The ultimate strategy is to re-educate the generations from the elementary levels, with a transformative mindset that is based on right perspectives, right intentions, right speech, right actions, right livelihood, right effortfulness, right mindfulness and right concentration—also known as the Eightfold Path developed by the Gautama Buddha, the Universal Mind Engineer born more than 2555 years ago.

As you sow, so you reap!

<https://www.groundreport.com/dimensions-of-press-freedom-a-nepali-perspective/>

Dimensions of press freedom: a Nepali perspective

May 3, 2012 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Observation of the International Press Freedom Day is an annual reminder of what press freedom is, why it is necessary, how to use it and what should people and concerned institutions do to protect and promote it.

When observed among bigwigs in a luxuruius and well-facilitated atmosphere, the International Press Freedom becomes an annual feast for the honored and invited to enjoy. When observed through pro-social justice advocacy communication, it becomes the continuity of an effort towards making the enjoyment of press freedom more meaningful and justice-oriented.

Generally, activists and media-related institutions have used the International Press Freedom Day to highlight the murder, detention or the victimization of mediapersons in other ways. Highlighting the plight of journalists is quite logical because they are people's representatives, who, even in absence of the elected parliament, represent people's concerns. When journalists are suppressed in this or that way, people's concerns find little place in the media. Besides, journalists have a greater potential to make media more public-oriented. Thus, the journalistic duty is closely related to protecting people's fundamental and human rights. Should there be no press freedom for journalists, people's fundamental rights face a huge threat.

Nepal's journalists, organized under unions, stress on the unhindered use of press freedom. Their emphasis is logical because when media and journalists suffer, people suffer too, the reason being journalism's *raison d'être* for people.

The Nepalis await the day of the promulgation of a new constitution with federal and republican elements in it. They believe a new Nepal can be worked out with the help of a pro-social justice constitution, inclusive and progressive in nature. The awaited new constitution is a major component of the ongoing peace process founded on the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed between the State and the Maoist rebels, who were engaged in a nation-wide armed insurgency with a demand for the political and socio-economic transformation of the Nepali society. The Nepali media have been covering the peace process and the constitution drafting process the way they are up to. Media entrepreneurs and journalists, in particular, are more interested in predicting press freedom provisions in the new constitution. They, at least, hope that the previous press freedom provisions will not be curtailed in the new constitution.

The post-1990 20 years are marked by a considerable growth in the media industry in Nepal. The Nepal government has so far licensed 380 FM radio stations to operate in urban, semi-urban and rural areas. More than 30 TV stations, too, have obtained licenses.

Due to the bulkiness of advertising costs of business institutions in the country, many seem interested in setting up media houses no matter how scanty knowledge and education they may have in the media sector.

While the media industry is growing larger, the government appears far weaker as regards a wise media policy. The current media policy and the one being randomly drafted with an intention to invite foreign direct investment in the media sector have not addressed Nepal's concerns concerned with national sovereignty, independence and integrity. Those involved in the drafting of a new media policy do not appear serious about the far-reaching consequences of random foreign direct investment in the mass media. No geo-political sensitivity of Nepal has been considered in the draft.

Amidst such contexts, Nepali journalists have observed press freedom. It is natural for them to seek professional dignity and reasonable remuneration for their arduous work. However, the concept of press freedom needs to be debated in favor of public interests.

What is press freedom

Press freedom, philosophically, is a theoretical concept of representing the human right to freedom of expression and opinion. Legally, it is a valid tool to use to protect and implement people's fundamental rights. Professionally, it is an environment for media professionals to work independently while seeking, processing and distributing information and entertainment programs via the mass media.

Nepali journalists have a long way to travel in implementing press freedom. There are serious challenges involved in this regard. Before proceeding to utilize press freedom as far as possible, it would be advisable to consider the following:

Conceptual framework of press freedom

Whose freedom is press freedom? By principle, those educated in mass communication and journalism are aware that press freedom is for people through media. However, the practices vary depending on the character of the existing political and socio-economic settings in different countries. The collective conscience of a concerned society determines the conceptual framework of press freedom. The Nepalis have to work hard to conceptualize press freedom. As part of globally recognized press freedom under the market economy model of politics, most of us are not unacquainted with what press freedom actually means. For those talking about the social responsibility of commercial media, there may be thematic debates ahead.

Political dimensions of press freedom

Media is a vital political component of a state structure. Civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights—all—are the topics of pluralist democracy. However, the framework has ideological and operational limits, be they good or bad.

Economic dimensions of press freedom

Profit-makers have been the backbone of the modern media, most of which are commercially run. Media as an industry runs according to economic principles. No money, no information. No information, no public consciousness. Is this notion perfect? If media contents are heavily manipulated and influenced for vested interests of those who spend a huge sum of money to buy advertising space, can public interests be protected? This question has been raised frequently in America and Europe, not in Nepal.

Similarly, does our press freedom ever touch upon the massive exploitation of workers and farmers and the total control of arbitrary brokers on our national economy? Have we used our press freedom to reveal the root causes of poverty and to communicate scientifically on what should be done to increase people's prosperity, how and why it should be done?

Social dimensions of press freedom

No doubt, the Nepali media have published and broadcast several stories on social incidents related to discriminations and superstitions. But what about

the root causes of social evils? Can we find the retention and re-strengthening of caste untouchability, dowry, witchcraft and many other ill-practices linked to national politics?

Religious-cultural dimensions of press freedom

There is some media coverage on religious-cultural issues. Is it enough? Can we go in-depth? Can we use religious philosophy and metaphysics to transform society by fighting evils? No such dimensions appear considered under the press freedom conceptual framework.

Current Nepal perspectives of press freedom

The Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) is a historical achievement. Many are not happy with it because their privileges and unjust dominance have been questioned. Since the CPA apparently advocates the political and socio-economic transformation of the Nepali society, many elite families, who still control Nepal's politics, would like to neutralize it, seeking a possibility to maintain status quo.

The homeless, the most marginalized and deprived cannot set up their own media companies. They have to depend on the information produced and supplied by the entrepreneurs, who have a selling orientation. Therefore, conflicts have been covered with confrontational attitudes, which sell in the news and opinion market. Analytical and critical discourses on the CPA rationale and its potential to change the Nepali society have found little space.

However, the Nepali media sector does have the potential to become more productive should they realize that they are not mere salespersons but also a vital stakeholder in making a better society.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-siddhartha-university-proposed-17-years-ago-but-not-considered-yet/>

Nepal: Siddhartha University proposed 17 years ago but not considered yet

Apr 25, 2012 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Organizing a press conference on Wednesday at Kantipur City College in Kathmandu, he informed the participating journalists that 235 Members of Parliament have already recommended for a bill of the university.

A theological graduate from Harvard University and a doctoral dissertation holder in philosophy from the American University, Washington, Dr. Mahasthvir complained that he would at no cost adopt any unethical method to please and acquire approval for the university. Answering questions posed by journalists, he stressed that Siddhartha University is for the nation's academic growth in Buddhist philosophy and moral enrichment.

Dr. Mahasthvir also informed journalists that Nepal government has not given any reason why the process of licensing the community-proposed university has lingered for 17 years now.

In response to queries from the press conference participants, he promised that he would not use any unfair method to get the university registered. He, instead, urged journalists and civil society members to lobby for this good cause. "We are not doing anything with an ill-intention. We will not yield to any immoral method." Dealing with another question about the lingering on the side of government bureaucracy, he said "No minister has ever directly bargained for his or her personal benefit while we talked to them; however, unknown and vague persons with political linkages had tried to broker with financial benefits in mind." While we are trying to launch a university for welfare of mankind, why are we sidelined while the government has randomly approved several other universities that did have political linkages. Responding to reporters' queries, he stressed that the proposed Siddhartha University will never try an unethical method in order to persuade government officials to recognize the university.

Participants had also raised questions about newly emerging universities that did not have any infrastructures and academic vision.

Siddhartha University is a Buddhism-oriented university proposed by the local community at Ugrachandi Nala Village Development Committee in Kavre district. The Village Development Committee has provided about 56 hectares of land for the university while the university, according to Dr. Mahasthavir, has already prepared B.A. and M.A. curricula for academic Buddhism programs.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-unidentified-gang-murders-journalist/>

Nepal: Unidentified gang murders journalist

Apr 4, 2012 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

An unidentified criminal gang has murdered a journalist in the Eastern Nepal.

Hundreds of journalists across Nepal Wednesday protested against the murder of Yadav Poudel whose dead body was discovered in Jhapa district. He worked for Avenues TV and the Rajdhani daily.

The district police has arrested more than a dozen for interrogation.

Preliminary information obtained from some Jhapa-based sources indicates that the murder was not an incident based on personal enmity or anger. The local people have suspected some brothel owners. The police has arrested some hotel entrepreneurs for questioning.

The Jhapa Branch of the Federation of Nepal Journalists (FNJ) has publicly claimed that the journalist's murder was an incident preplanned by some elites with access to state power.

However, the police has not yet made out a possible motive behind the crime.

Nepal's Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai assured the protesting journalists of stern actions against those behind the murder.

The Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPN), the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) have condemned the murder.

But the journalists have attributed this murder to the growing impunity in the country.

More than a half dozen of journalists as well as media entrepreneurs have been murdered in Nepal after the peace process began in 2006.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-maoists-against-maoists/>

Nepal: Maoists against Maoists

Feb 6, 2012 [Politics](#), [World](#)

The Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPN)-affiliated Young Communist League (YCL) cadres based in the Far Western Nepal on Monday protested against their own mother party. They have demanded that they be recognized as equivalent to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) fighters and be provided the same salaries and facilities that the PLA members get—a demand neither heard before nor registered anywhere institutionally.

Lalit Thapa, the Secretary of the YCL Thuruwan State Committee in the Far Western region, organized a press meet in Dhangadhi to inform that the YCL and disqualified Maoist fighters seized the documents of the party offices and padlocked them in the region.

This new move by the Maoist cadres seems to put the Maoist central leadership into an unpredictable difficulty.

The incident has occurred a day after a Maoist politbureau member and current Commerce and Supply Minister Lekhraj Bhatta, an origin of the Far Western region himself, publicly expressed his willingness to lead a movement against his own government and Maoist party.

The superhike of market prices and the artificial scarcity of oil and gas in Nepal have been attributed to the most corrupt business community, bureaucracy and the government of which Bhatta is a minister.

2011

<https://www.groundreport.com/world-peace-day-and-nepal-hypocrisy/>

World Peace Day and Nepal Hypocrisy

Sep 21, 2011 [Politics](#), [World](#)

There is no special meaning of the observation of the World Peace Day as the money-mongers, war-mongers and crime-mongers have every day and every night celebrated their over-rule against mankind.

We have created a political, socio-economic and religious-cultural environment in which the stronger suppresses the weaker, the smarter cheats the duller, the educated suppresses the illiterate, the richer exploits the poorer, the male dominates the female, the dishonest governs the honest, and the guilty suppresses the innocent.

The accelerating criminalization of global politics—acuter in Africa, Latin America and Asia—has made the majority of mankind very cynic.

The stronger nations, violating the international relations norms and laws, have continued encroaching weaker nations. We have seen millions of people being killed by those who possess more wealth, technologies and bestiality.

In Nepal, some powerful bigwigs, who call themselves blockbuster politicians, have turned extremely negative after the commencement in November 2006 of the peace process formalized by the historical

Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) that has encompassed the values of political and socio-economic transformation essential for transforming the deep-rooted conflicts into peace, prosperity and progressive attitudes. Such ill-intentioned politicians have occupied much of the political space in the country, creating barriers to even slighter changes. They prefer being enslaved instead of letting the downtrodden masses get access to opportunities. They do or die to maintain status quo under which they enjoy maintaining feudalistic supremacy in every sector.

Since peace is a basic requirement of human life, talking about it is not wrong. But culturing civil wars by exacerbating conflicts by unscientifically, feudalistically and belligerently handling conflicts is tremendously wrong.

Those who prefer to observe peace day by trumpeting glamorous slogans and by bagging weighty dosh by doing everything they can to strengthen the existing man-eat-man political trade but doing nothing to empower the downtrodden majority need to bear in mind that peace originates from self-restrained and enlightened mind.

To create a real peace, the Nepalis should resist the disturbances that are likely to occur when the undemocratic and unjust structures are dismantled. So should people in other countries.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepallandlords-ignore-legal-ceiling-of-land/>

Nepal:Landlords ignore legal ceiling of land

Sep 15, 2011 [Politics](#), [World](#)

All Nepal Farmers' Association Revolutionary has warned its mother party the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPN) that returning the land seized by the party during the 10-year insurgency would not be so easy without conclusively addressing the issues of the homeless and the landless, most of whom are the victims of the existing feudal land patterns in Nepal.

Although the Nepal government (then His Majesty's government) through its amended land reform Act in 2001 fixed the upper ceiling of land ownership at 11 Bigahs for the plains, 75 ropanis for the hills and 25 ropanis for the Kathmandu valley, not a single government formed so has been able to implement it, the reason being the supremacy of landlords in the national politics for long. The concept of the land ceiling was meant for seizing the land above the ceiling while also preserving food-producing land. The Act has specified that out of 11 bigahs in the plains, 1 bigah was meant for residence and 10 bigahs for agriculture; out of 75 ropanis in the hills, 5 ropanis was meant for residence while 70 ropanis for cultivation; out of 30 ropanis in the Kathmandu Valley, 5 ropanis was meant for residence while 25 ropanis for cultivation. Contrarily, most of the most fertile land has been used for erecting personal buildings and commercial housing apartments by completely ignoring the ceiling. Moreover, corrupt government officials and leaders have raced to buy more land where they would make housing complexes. They have completely foiled the legal ceiling.

Currently, several leaders in Nepal own hundreds of bigahs though they do not toil but only own it. Former royal family members own the greatest volume of land in Nepal. The Nepalis have never witnessed any government from 1950s to date that has gone into this issue in an honest manner.

Maoist insurgents had seized land in different parts of the country and distributed them to the landless and the homeless during their war with the government. Returning land to concerned owners is one of the points of their latter agreements. However, the land ceiling has not been addressed in the agreements. While millions of homeless and landless people in Nepal have been demanding for their settlement, the Maoist-led government formed two weeks ago has ordered the land users to return the land seized and distributed by the Maoist insurgents during the war period.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-ceremonial-republic-and-active-monarchy-a-misfortune/>

Nepal: Ceremonial republic and active monarchy-a misfortune

May 29, 2011 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal government celebrated the 4th Republic Day at the Army Pavilion on Sunday with surprisingly no public participation and excitement at all. This empty ritual to which the government and other political forces that have labeled themselves as republicans cling has hurt the majority of people, who expect a leadership and its vision to transform Nepal strikingly so as to differentiate a genuine republican democracy from the one they have always wanted to get rid of.

As usual, the head of the state, the prime minister and political leaders attended the Army Pavilion and watched cultural ceremonies.

Security personnel were heavily deployed around the Pavilion ground in all the four directions, banning passers-by to view the ceremonies from the pavements.

At 03:00 on Sunday, the Unified Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (UCPN-M), the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) painstakingly agreed to extend the Constituent Assembly (CA) term by three months after having had dozens of consultative meetings continuously from Saturday morning to Sunday early morning.

The CA would have been dissolved on Saturday, depriving the people of their own democratic right to draft a new republican constitution, had the chief peace process stakeholders not agreed to extend the term.

However, the agreement, developed into a five-point document, contains no specific details; consequently, future contradictions, misinterpretations and dialogic barriers are likely to emerge with further imperilment of the peace process that will not succeed without a new and transformative constitution.

The NC has demanded the current Prime Minister Jhulanath Khanal's immediate resignation.

Nevertheless, there is no agreement among the parties regarding whom to have as the next prime minister. Should the chief peace process stakeholders mentioned above focus again on grabbing the government leadership, no first draft of the new constitution is likely in three months.

The current phenomena in Nepal reflect clear-cut feudal trends among the exercising political parties. They have never theoretically educated people on the norms and values of the genuine republic. They, instead, have given continuity to the feudal practices seen in previous monarchs. They want to decide everything on the basis of their personal likes and dislikes, neglecting millions of people's aspirations and sufferings.

The trends of market prices in Nepal, especially in the Kathmandu valley, clearly tell us that the speech-delivering political parties do not have any control over Nepal's national politics. The unhindered and arbitrary price hikes ranging from 100 percent to 1,000 percent prove the absence of state and its mechanisms. State apparatuses are ritual and clearly controlled by oligarchs with nexus to smuggling and blackmarket networks.

The so-called republican government has not yet seized any illegal land, properties and money freely being mobilized by oligarchs and former royal family members. It has failed to re-orient the employees of the Central Investigation Department towards implementing the norms of the republic.

Feudal-era caste untouchability practices continue as a normal social pattern across the country, including all the 3,914 villages—completely ignored by the state. The anti-untouchability Act has, of course, banned such feudal practices. But the implementation is zero because state apparatuses cooperate with violators, with a view to further suppressing the victims. This

everyday reality— unreported, unheeded or ignored—proves that there is a ceremonial republic in Nepal while there is an active monarchy for which the ruling elites work under the veil of republic at present.

The status quo to which the disguised republicans stick will generate much acuter political conflicts in the future. Radical education will become essential to guide the credulous masses towards the overall transformation of Nepal. Radicalism is something else and is not good while radical education is the most important tool to empower the people to reach the roots of problems.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepalworlds-most-inclusive-constituent-assembly-in-danger-of-dissolutionextension-hoped/>

Nepal:World's most inclusive Constituent Assembly in danger of dissolution;extension hoped

May 27, 2011 |[Politics](#), [World](#)

World's most inclusive Constituent Assembly (CA) elected in Nepal on 10 April 2008 faces a serious danger of dissolution on Saturday—the day of its last deadline. Nepal's three key role-playing parties— the Unified Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (UCPN-M), the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML)—are trying to forge out an agreement to extend the CA's deadline by at least six months. If the CA's term is not extended by voting, it will be dissolved, creating a vacuum.

The NC has disagreed to extend the CA's deadline without the former Maoist rebels' immediate disarmament. Maoist rebels fought a 10-year war with the state with the goal of Marxist republic. The current peace process in Nepal commenced when they agreed on a capitalist republic in the situation created by the people's movement II in 2006 when parliamentary parties and Maoist rebels joined hands for peaceful movement against the then autocracy.

The UCPN-M, elected as the largest political party, regards the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed between the party and the state

in November 2006 is a win-win agreement, not a win-lose document. They have so far disagreed to submit their cantonment-deposited arms in absence of clear-cut constitution-making schedules and modalities of the integration, management and rehabilitation of their People's Liberation Army (PLA). They have reiterated that the immediate disarmament of their PLA without its integration, management and rehabilitation as per the CPA amounts to total surrender. But the NC has maintained its demand till this hour that Maoists submit their arms to the state for extension of the CA's deadline.

Last May the country's Legislative-Parliament, through an amendment in the Interim Constitution, extended CA's term by one year as its two-year prescribed period had ended. However, the elected parties failed to complete the process of drafting the proposed republican constitution as the inclusive nature of the CA also contained extreme ideological, socio-economic, religious-cultural and ethnic diversity and differences marked by yet-noninterpreted complications.

Although the CA was formed with a clear-cut purpose of drafting a new constitution of federal republican nature to pursue the path of the political and socio-economic transformation of the Nepali society as per the Comprehensive Peace Accord, intra-CA class struggles have continued, dividing the CA into the progressive, the regressive and the unprincipled brokering sides.

The Unified Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (UCPN-M), the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) have formally agreed on adopting a republican political path in the country. However, a number of powerful NC and UML leaders have apparently shown their reluctance to institutionalize the historical changes that have occurred following the collapse of the autocratic rule in the country. Such key decision-making hands within the NC and the UML have shown their ideological proximity to feudal monarchy, to surprise many.

Most of the parties though elected directly and proportionately, are unclear as to why they appeared in the CA and what state restructuring means to people. Their activities give the impression that they are in the CA to set barriers to the constitution-drafting process. Although they have not formally opposed the peace process, they have demonstrated an attitude of revenge against the former rebels.

Former rebels, now known as the UCPN-M, are also blameworthy. They have begun degenerating their own political influence by randomly amalgamating into their party many monarchists and persons with bad records to quantitatively further enlarge their party. The infiltration of many politically undefined forces into their party has morally weakened them, discouraging honest cadres.

The greatest fault of the UCPN-M during these three years of the CA is their focus on government-making rather than on constitution-making. However, the making of a new constitution is linked to the fate of the former rebels. The dissolution of the CA, which is the keystone of the ongoing peace process, may project Nepal into a new series of confrontations.

Those against the new constitution and the republic are demanding the dissolution of the CA while those who fought for the new constitution and the republic want an extension of CA.

While pro-republic parties have instructed their youth volunteers to remain alert to deal with any regressive efforts, people still expect that the CA term will be extended to complete the process of drafting a new constitution.

Pro-change forces, including indigenous organizations, have called for pressure demonstrations in the streets on Saturday afternoon.

<https://www.groundreport.com/1st-national-convention-on-the-right-to-information-held-in-nepal/>

1st National Convention on the Right to Information held in Nepal

Mar 30, 2011 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

The 1st National Convention on the Right to Information (RTI) held in Kathmandu from 28 to 29 March 2011, through its Kathmandu Declaration, has urged the government and its bureaucracy, political forces, civil society institutions, media sector and citizens to be proactive in practicing the RTI Act 2007.

The action-oriented Kathmandu Declaration has expressed its commitment to reinvigorating the RTI Act, which so far remains scantily practiced. Apart from recommending certain measures, it has decided to form a monitoring committee to see if or how the RTI is being used.

The 150 participants of the Convention represented not only the media sector but also bureaucracy, NGOs, INGOs, political parties and RTI champions from all the eight SAARC member countries.

The program is the first of its kind in Nepal.

President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav had inaugurated the Convention on Monday while the Constituent Assembly Chairperson Subhas Chandra Nembang was invited as the Chief Guest to conclude it on Tuesday.

Organized by the Freedom Forum and funded by the World Bank, the Convention extensively discussed the problems and possible measures in practicing the RTI Act. Most of the participants had stressed on the proactive role of the mass media in implementing the RTI Act while some of them also emphasized on the transparency of investments in the mass media for gaining moral ground to apply the RTI for accessing information from other sources.

A significantly raised issue in the discussions was a fear-and-threat factor barring journalists from the practice of investigative journalism. A veteran journalist commented, "Media is safe, journalists are not."

<https://www.groundreport.com/international-community-welcomes-maoist-supported-prime-minister-in-nepal/>

International community welcomes Maoist-supported prime minister in Nepal

Feb 3, 2011 [Politics](#), [World](#)

The US, the European Union, India, China and other countries have welcomed the election of new Prime Minister Jhulanath Khanal in Nepal where the nation's functioning post was vacant for seven months following the resignation of the outgoing Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal.

Series of quarrels among the major political parties—Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist, the Nepali Congress, the Unified Marxist-Leninist and other Terai-based parties—had continued over the issue of heading the government.

The Nepali Congress and a faction of the Unified Marxist-Leninist have been opting for an anti-Maoist alliance while the Maoist party (50% peace process stakeholder in the country) has objected to the idea.

Mr. Khanal was elected on Thursday evening as the Maoist Chairman and prime ministerial candidate Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda withdrew his candidature and supported him.

Terai-based rightist leader Vijay Kumar Gachchhedar and Nepali Congress candidate Ram Chandra Poudel have expressed their outrage at the sudden withdrawal of Prachanda's candidature to support Khanal.

Analysts say the Nepali Congress is likely to stay in the Opposition, posing challenges for the drafting of a new constitution and the conclusion of the current peace process meant to manage the decade-long Maoist armed insurgency.

<https://www.groundreport.com/2555th-buddhism-day-and-serious-ways-to-cope-with-criminalization-of-global-politics/>

2555TH BUDDHISM DAY AND SERIOUS WAYS TO COPE WITH CRIMINALIZATION OF GLOBAL POLITICS

may 16, 2011 | politics, world

The Nepalis observe Buddhism Day on Tuesday as per the ritual calendar in Nepal. This is the day on which Gautam Buddha was born in Lumbini 2555 years ago. He was a prince who sacrificed his luxurious palace life and set on a journey of life as a psychological explorer seeking to know the causes of bad consequences of human thoughts and actions. He was able to discover truth that human body was a representative mechanism of the Universe. Mind exists so long as body exists. This was the discovery of Gautam Buddha.

The majority of Nepalis understand Gautam Buddha as a God rather than as a philosopher. Within the religious belief in Buddhism itself, there are various trends and angles with varying definitions. However, the crux of Buddhism is something more scientific and real-life related. This being the reason, Buddhist philosophy has existed as a science closely concerned with our mind and behavior. Efforts to trivialize this science in the name of God and rites will continue, but this philosophy has a high level relevancy in the modern democracy and the principles of social justice. Buddhism is extremely important in connection with the implementation of human rights.

For good and ethical politics equipped with a sense of public accountability, the eightfold path principles developed by Gautam Buddha 2500 years ago is more relevant today than ever before. Today, criminalization of politics all over the world has reached an alarming scale. State apparatuses have been misused exclusively for the protection of the criminal networks; consequently, the people do not feel secure. State exists in legal format but in a real and practical sense, people feel the absence of state.

Wars have escalated. Civil wars have become part of the global war, which has been decentralized. More arms have been produced and sold. Arms production and trade is mainly the affair of states. International intelligence operatives have been mobilized to destabilize world and give continuity to the politics based on violence and massacres. About two million Iraqis have lost their lives after the arrival of 'democracy' there. Has any powerful democratic institution raised a debate regarding the need to take those responsible to the Hague?

Today ruthless murders occur while the experiments of military technology go side by side. Who is to take those responsible to the international court? Who runs the international court?

If only reactions over reactions and reactions after reactions become our way of politicking and gambling, this will further degrade our life while also aggravating our pro-crime mindset.

While we remember Gautam Buddha as a good son of the Earth, it is essential for us to internalize his eightfold path in order to better ourselves optimistically.

Rationale of the Eightfold Path

The Eightfold Path contains **Right View, Right Intention, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness** and **Right Concentration**.

The Right view refers to studying the world analytically and critically and understanding it from scientific perspectives. This principle is related to the development of scientific viewpoint against superstitions and ignorance. Without correctly examining the society we live, how can we ever think of improving it? Therefore, facing the existing realities and trying to transform them is the major point of the Right View path as shown by the Buddha.

Similarly, the Right Intention matters in every sector. If spoken words are good but intention is bad, one cannot expect good things to happen. If intention is to commit a crime for the sake of luxurious life, shining cars, superb buildings and brilliant profile will be worthless. Good intention results in good actions that produce good results.

Gifted with communication power and tools, human beings have definitely achieved much. But no good actions and consequences can be expected with wrong speech. The Right Speech here refers to the ethical and true communication. Lies have no place in Buddha's Right Speech domain.

Another important contribution by Gautam Buddha to make human life better and meaningful is Right Action. Wrong actions produce wrong effects. Wrong actions are the products of wrong thoughts in the main. Good speech and wrong actions do not match. In today's politics, this trend is growing alarmingly. Therefore, re-examining our actions is essential.

Equally important is the principle of Right Livelihood. In a country like Nepal, people spoil their mentality from early childhood. 'Earn money any way, without considering whether it is good or bad' is the wrong path adopted generally. Those who are honest and totally depend on their good thoughts and actions are mocked at. This shows how wrong path one has adopted for the sake of livelihood. Professional murder industry, kidnap industry, arms industry and more are some examples against the Right Livelihood principle of Buddha.

Moreover, the Right Effort encourages human beings to work hard by not wasting their energy, be it physical or mental. It helps us to put our energy in good things, with a proper degree of continuity and focus. Even good policies cannot be successfully implemented without the right effort.

Likewise, Right Mindfulness can be a vital component to succeed in our work. Being attentive to our own thoughts and behavior can keep us on track. Being watchful and careful in every sector is equally important. Psychological tendencies affect our behavioral culture. The quality of Buddhist Mindfulness actually makes our mind pro-active, dynamic and productive so that we can be better human beings.

But we cannot become successful without adding one more Buddhist eightfold Path component here. It is the Right Concentration concerned with exactly focusing our mind on what we do, how and why we do it. Discontinuity, distraction and mind dullification cannot help us at all. Meditation is essential to operate our mind in the most scientific and engineering ways.

Thus, the Buddhist Eightfold Path principles are vital for the modern human society. They need more attention on a global scale.

For the global peace and justice, understanding the significance of the Eightfold Path is necessary. It teaches us that peace comes from mind. Thousands of fighter planes, drones or bombs cannot bring peace. Can we cite a single example here? The world is being punished by anger. Ignorance, as Buddhism says, is the greatest enemy of human beings, who follow a wrong path seeking happiness. One wrong thought produces more wrong thoughts. One wrong action produces more wrong actions. One bad consequence produces another bad consequence to suffer. One negative reaction towards bad consequences produces more negative reactions. This is what the eightfold path teaches us.

Democracy fighters are depending on others for their liberation. They get money, arms and other training from others in the name of democracy. But Buddha taught us so long ago that we must depend on ourselves to work out our freedom while we co-exist with others for international freedom, fraternity and equality.

The transformation of human life must be the goal of politics. In clearer terms, criminalization of the society is not the goal of human politics. Buddhism can greatly help the human world think better and act better. American film actress Koo Stark reminds us, "Buddhism teaches you to embrace change."

Finally, it would be advisable to examine the following famous quote of Buddha:

"Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it."

<https://www.groundreport.com/understanding-democracy-from-working-class-perspectives/>

UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRACY FROM WORKING CLASS PERSPECTIVES

may 1, 2011 | politics, world

Workers of the world observe the 1st of May as the global May Day. Although the international day is mainly related to the workers' labor movement, its rationale works for all the sectors in the human society. The basic of the global May Day is that labor is fundamental to the development of human society from political, socio-economic and scientific-technological perspectives.

Labor today does not concern merely factory workers mainly using their bodily force. The latest meaning of labor is the work involving both mental and physical efforts geared towards gaining economic returns or productivity in any sense. Moreover, labor refers to the philosophical concept of working class people, who strive to gain access to political power that has the potential to have power in other sectors.

People in general are workers. Government leaders, should they devote themselves to the causes of people, are also workers. But the reality in general

is contrary in the world. Innumerable legal documents exist to say that all human beings are equal from human rights point of view—a global standard that defines all human beings as human beings deserving the equal dignity and access without state-intended discrimination and atrocities.

Although there is no dispute that labor is the primary factor of production of wealth and power in the human society, the perspectives on democracy differ, ranging among feudalism, rightism, capitalism and leftism.

Feudalists, capitalists, rightists and leftists all exploit people as much as they can. So far they have defined this age-old labor exploitation as democracy. For this reason, democracy sounds rather phony to the majority of the working class people in the world.

Within the United States of America itself, Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy has been utterly ridiculed into the monopolist democracy of multinational private corporations, heavily influencing the formulation of the US foreign policy geared towards the multinationalization of war industry that apparently tries to colonize the nations in both covert and overt ways. Do you need to refer to some realities that support this statement? Look at civil wars going on in many nations of the world. What brands of arms do they use? Both states and rebel forces need arms in their civil wars. Where do they get arms from? Where do they get money from? Both state and rebel forces may think that they are getting financial and arms assistance. Although they may perceive it as assistance, it is the long-term investment of global war industry that has linkages with ruling elites and arms mafia.

The burning example to support this statement is the current situation of Mexico where drug traffickers openly run the country by massacring hundreds of ordinary people, who refuse to cooperate with the mafia rule. The state has been a shield to protect mafia 'heroes' in the country. A highly dullified majority silence remains there. Due to metastatic effects of cancerous corruption, bribery and ill-governance, people and even conscious civil society leaders prefer to think of their own security than to risk their life by advocating against the mafia rule in the country.

Nepal is gradually heading towards the path of Mexico because the 'state' (the writer wonders whether it could be referred to as state on the basis of political and democratic principles and philosophical tenets) has been a mere spectator to all kinds of evil deeds in the country. Market prices have skyrocketed ranging from 100 percent to 1000 percent. No economists, civil society leaders, journalists and donor-driven lobbyists bother to discuss about it. The government

looks like a prisoner detained by the mafia and blackmarketeers.

In Nepal's plains known as the Terai, dozens of small robbery gangs under the tag of liberation fighters, mainly indirectly linked to various parties, buy weapons from Indian gangs, also linked to Indian ruling parties. The major parties both in Nepal and India know this truth; however, they prefer to let it grow because they believe they could somehow use such armed gangs as and when they need. As state apparatuses have failed to protect people from such gangs, people in the Terai feel they lack the institution called state. Consequently, most of the working class people prefer to go to Gulf countries for work as their domestic environment does not allow them to work and live safely.

Long queues of the working class Nepalis trying to get passports in Nepal proves the above statement. For an average US\$150-200, the majority of working class youths leave their country in thousands every year. Government leaders appreciate the remittance brought home by the Nepali workers from foreign countries. Their viewpoint is not only unscientific but also anti-development because not being able to manage the active population within the country is a sign of bankrupt politics. It is not within bankrupt leaders' understanding that the remittance earned by the Nepali workers goes back to foreign countries because Nepal does have an economy of importing foreign goods and services for the highest margins of a few business families. The country does not have a production economy. In a growingly interdependent world, both import and export business is a must. Therefore, the writer does not wish to convey a sense of chauvinism. But Nepal's realities concretely suggest that Nepal will not so easily climb up the ladder of economic progress unless the country adopts a production economy.

In absence of production economy, feudalist mindset will prevail. This mindset will further reinforce criminalization of politics, resulting in the expansion of armed gangsterism as an industry.

Not only on the workers' day but every day, it is necessary to think of the working class people's life status—analyzing how they manage to live a life of human dignity with so little income. At least intellectual workers (though they themselves are unable to live an adequate life) need to exercise a bit more towards creating worker-friendly opinion regarding the implementation of human rights covenants such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The working class people in Nepal, trapped in battles for bread, are deprived of the human rights enshrined in treaties and commitments to which Nepal is a party.

The current realities of the world show that the United Nations has been forced to spend more money on wars, be they civil wars or US-led invasions. More attention from the UN systems to the implementation of human rights in the nations of the world could play a crucial role in neutralizing civil wars, ultimately discouraging multinational war industry dedicated to the money-mongering tastes of demonic minds.

The job of countering criminal networks is not that easy. Criminal networks—it's necessary to mind it—mostly work through political apparatuses, not surprising at all. So long as criminal networks prevail among any countries' political forces, any government formed one after another will not cater to the interests of the working class people in Nepal and elsewhere.

The predominance of criminalized politics—manifest in various sectors in the human society—bars people from enjoying democracy. Opinions will be syndicated. Media will be manipulated. People will be utterly misguided and beguiled frequently. Decisions will be taken in favor of the commanding networks, not in favor of the people.

Realities in the global scenario speak loudly that labor now requires to be geared towards dismantling the criminal networks rooted in political forces so that the peoples of the world—the working class people in more obvious terms—will understand the difference between genuine democracy and disguised democracy.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-unmin-exits-india-enters/>

Nepal: UNMIN exits, India enters

Jan 17, 2011 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Re-affirming that Nepal's power-mongering politicians have long been accepting Indian political intervention in the country, Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao has arrived in Kathmandu with a clearly stated purpose of representing the Indian role in forming a government in Nepal.

India has apparently sent her to make sure the Indian role would redouble in Nepal after the exit of the UN Mission to Nepal (UNMIN) from Nepal's peace process monitoring and reporting role three days ago.

The visit is reported to have been concerned with quarrels among Nepali political parties and their intra-party feuds.

There is no elected government in Nepal though the Nepalis formed a Constituent Assembly through the elections held on 10 April 2008.

The constitution drafting mission as part of conflict management has been overshadowed after the presidential coup in May 2009.

Seventeen times of in-House elections for the post of prime minister became futile as the UML blocked the process of decisive voting while the NC prime ministerial candidate refused to withdraw his candidature showing the cause that Maoists did not surrender beyond the peace accord framework.

The Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) have so far refused to integrate the Maoist combatants into government security mechanisms though the Comprehensive Peace Accord signed between the state and the rebels in 2006 has this point of agreement. The NC and the UML have time and again asked Maoist rebels to surrender unconditionally accepting the status quo.

However, the rebels, elected as the largest political party in 2008 but jointly isolated by all the parties in Nepal, have warned with a possible people's revolt if the new constitution concerning people's change aspirations is not drafted and the peace process derails.

While dubious interpretations of the peace accord surround the political market in Nepal, Maoists have accused India of supplying to Nepali establishments arms and war accessories.

2010

<https://www.groundreport.com/oil-price-hikes-hit-the-nepalis-hard/>

Oil price hikes hit the Nepalis hard

Dec 6, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

“In previous years, parties and their sister organizations used to take out to the streets as soon as market prices were hiked. These days all parties and their sister organizations remain totally silent over such price hikes,” Hem Prasad Bohara, a porter at Asan in Kathmandu remarks in response to the news that the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) has upped oil prices. He adds,

“People like us don’t know what democracy is. May be it is something belonging to the well-to-do individuals.”

The working class people have generally expressed their serious concern over the price hike in petroleum products by about 4.5 percent per litre—a decision the government-owned NOC declared on Monday. Voicing his previous experience of price hikes, Bom Kumar Tamang, a rickshaw puller at Asan relates, “No matter how little the price hike in oil may be, businesspeople will add still higher percent to their selling products to benefit more. It happened in the past. It will happen now too. Who can stop it?”

Neera Kandel, a newspaper vendor, thinks that the price hike in petroleum products will make her familial life still more painful. She complains, “Our income is very low. Dealers try their best to increase food and other prices to any extent they can because they know there is no state power in Nepal.”

Nepal Oil Corporation distributes bonuses to its employees. Its officials are some of the richest individuals in Nepal. Former General Managers of the NOC are said to have owned properties worth millions now.

Currently, a cup of tea—about 120ml in laymen’s market—costs Rs.10.00 (US \$0.7). A layman’s meal costs Rs.70.00 (US \$1.00) whereas most of Nepalis earn about US\$1.5 a day.

Nepal, de facto run by oligarchs, is in the transition phase of democracy marked by the ongoing peace process being monitored by the UN. Labor justice is still a remote truth in the country. Even Marxist forces do not appear to have shown a serious concern over the all-out labor exploitation in the country. Consequently, the majority of the Nepalis are hard-hit by frequent price hikes, though price hikes are expected economic phenomena.

Ordinary masses have been developing their spiral of silence due to the failure of state mechanisms to control geometrical rise in the commodity market prices propelled by money-mongering dealers. Such a failure of state’s controlling mechanisms is obviously attributed to the all-pervasive corruption and ill-governance.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-congress-leader-revokes-desire-of-war-in-nepal/>

Nepali Congress leader revokes desire of war in Nepal

Nov 16, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepali Congress leader and culture minister Minendra Rijal warned of the revocation of civil war should Maoist activists who are also in the combatants' position participate in their party plenum.

Speaking to reporters in Kathmandu on Tuesday, Rijal said that Maoists are holding their plenum session against democracy and peace.

"Participation of combatants in the party's meeting will be against the peace agreement," Rijal emphasized.

However, Maoist leaders argue that since combatants's voices need to be heard in the party's plenum for the better completion of the peace process, their representatives are also invited to the plenary session.

The Nepali Congress has so far refused to cooperate with the former rebels (Maoists) after their emergence as the largest political force in the country through the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-permits-businesspersons-to-use-public-road-as-private-asset/>

Nepal government permits businesspersons to use public road as private asset

Nov 2, 2010 | [Business](#), [World](#)

Mobile dealers ban the Pako portion of public road for several hours

Mobile dealers with showrooms at New Road in Kathmandu on Tuesday have banned public road there in the name of Pako Mobile Festival. No vehicles are allowed to use that road. Youth volunteers standing on the road said that even pedestrians will not be allowed to use the road in the evening as temporary walls will be erected on two ends of the portion of the road (known as Pako) to conduct a pop-rock musical concert.

The government has deployed dozens of security personnel for the purpose.

Vehicle owners expressed the view that it is an example of statelessness because a few businessmen have used the public road as their private property with full consent and cooperation from the government.

Ordinary passers-by said there was no government for ordinary people because it permits money mongers to use the public road as a business capital while banning people to pass through it as usual.

One Chinese tourist Mei Biang expressed her surprise that the Nepal government allows businesspersons to use the public road totally as their private property by banning the vehicles and passers-by.

Before this too, business companies, with the full permission of the government, have misused the public roads in various vital spots of the Kathmandu Metropolis solely for their commercial purposes.

No human rights and legal advocates, including political organizations, have made any objection to the human rights violation against people's right to access and mobility.

Nepal's politicians and public authorities have been ill-ranked as one of the most corrupt in the world. The Transparency International 2010 report has listed Nepal as one of the few most corrupt countries in the globe.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-congress-commences-its-12th-general-convention/>

Nepali Congress commences its 12th general convention

Sep 17, 2010 [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepali Congress (NC) has commenced its 12th General Convention on Friday in Kathmandu.

This General Convention is to choose a new team of party leadership following the demise of party President and former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

According to party sources, about 3,000 party workers of various strata are scheduled to participate in the convention.

Leaders have been stressing on restoring their party strength lost in the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2010. A new party Presidential candidate Bhim Bahadur Tamang, who claims to have represented a pro-change trend, says the convention would mean nothing without a big change in party leadership.

However, regressive trend geared towards the restoration of autocratic monarchy, has stood as a chief barrier to developing a new pro-change leadership—says a professor of political science. Another leader and former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba argues that his leadership in the NC is required to coordinate between the left-oriented and right-oriented lines.

The greatest challenge for the NC in this General Convention is to sort out the issue of the party's 'democratic socialism' as an ideological value, which has so far run counter to its essential meaning since the party has for long de facto adopted market economy and all-out privatization of all essential public service sectors, including health and education.

<https://www.groundreport.com/the-gaijatra-day-in-nepal-a-repertoire-of-political-and-socio-economic-lessons/>

The Gaijatra Day in Nepal: a repertoire of political and socio-economic lessons

Aug 24, 2010 | [Opinion](#), [World](#)

The Gaijatra (cow festival) has become a well-established tradition of exposing political, economic and social illnesses of the Nepali society. This is a comprehensive reflection of Nepal. When the Nepalis observe the festival scenes in the form of cultural manifestations in the streets of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur, they can understand something about the contemporary issues of the Nepali society.

As to the initiation of the Gaijatra in Nepal, there is a long-quoted and widely believed story behind it. King Pratap Malla, a medieval king in the Kathmandu valley, not being able to please his wife deeply regretful of her son's death, organized various entertainment programs marked by funs, mockeries, humor and satire to divert his queen's mind from grief to pleasure and entertainment.

In the current context, the Gaijatra has become not only a festival show but also an annual entertainment program marked by diversity in contexts and presentations.

Apart from the open Gaijatra demonstrations in the streets of major cities, reputed film artists and comedians give their professional presentations to paying spectators. The shows are mainly concerned with political, economic and social issues of the day.

However, such programs are observed to be heading towards more sexual vulgarism more recently. Some even believe that entertainment programs emphatic of sexual vulgarism will not but help to stimulate sexual violence.

The annual Gaijatra had also played a figuratively political role during the 30-year Partyless Panchayat regime. The Panchayat rulers used to suppress people's right to freedom of expression and opinion throughout the year. But they allowed the Gaijatra to be more expressive for one day, and people would wait for the whole year to get access to diverse expressions from within the Nepali society.

The Gaijatra has also become a symbol of disorder and irregularities in the real life situation. People often refer to the word 'Gaijatra' when they want to mean that the society has anomalies and lawlessness.

The current Nepali political scenario is almost synonymous with the show of the Gaijatra. The Constituent Assembly Legislative-Parliament has not been able to elect a prime minister for about two months following the resignation of Madhav Kumar Nepal, who still remains caretaker government head. His party United Marxist-Leninist (UML), with a decisively linking number of votes, has declined to participate in the election of the next prime minister. For almost five weeks, it has silently blocked the process of forming the next government. It could vote for any party after its resignation. But it has shown reluctance to actually depart from the government even after the resignation. This is just one instance of high level degradation of political morality in Nepal. Thus, the Gaijatra contains rich political implications.

Contemporary issues find plenty of place in both print and electronic media on the occasion of the Gaijatra. Several magazines publish special issues of the Gaijatra. Such special issues of the magazines contain satirical and farcical characterizations of the overall Nepali society, especially regarding public issues.

Electronic media, too, offer special shows on the occasion. In essence, the Gaijatra period becomes a day of catharsis.

Amidst growing print and electronic mass media in the country, people these days have begun to take the Gaijatra more lightly. It is generally understood that they are more inclined to Hindi and English movies than to traditional ways of entertainment.

Many admit that there is an everyday Gaijatra in Nepal. It means one can observe political, social and economic anomalies every day in every sector. However, the Nepalis can do better by being more constructive and innovative to cope with the demonstrated evils. For this purpose, the Gaijatra can be a rich repertoire of lessons.

<https://www.groundreport.com/maoists-not-eligible-for-leadership-ishwor-pokhrel/>

MAOISTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR LEADERSHIP: ISHWOR POKHREL

jun 17, 2010 | politics, world

General Secretary of the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) Ishwor Pokhrel on Thursday revealed that his party and the Nepali Congress would not accept Maoist leadership for any future government so long as the rebels would not succumb to them. He told mediapersons that his party's advocacy for a government of national consensus meant a government under the leadership of his own party UML or the Nepali Congress. He argued that Maoists, though elected as the largest political party of Nepal, have not transformed into a civilian party yet.

However, he tried to assure mediapersons that current Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal was likely to resign to diffuse the intensity of the opposition against the government by the Maoist party. "Even if there can be no national consensus, the prime minister will resign to facilitate the nation's politics," he told the participants at Reporters Club in Kathmandu.

Maoists have accused the current coalition government of trying to reverse the peace process and transformation agenda.

The Nepali Congress Party and the UML are the parliamentary parties previously loyal to monarchy while the Maoist rebels, through a decade-long armed insurgency, emerged as a new force seeking bigger changes to be accompanied by a mixed type of political system yet to be defined.

Currently, Maoist fighters have been temporarily kept in cantonments along with their weapons under the UN supervision as per the Comprehensive Peace Accord signed on 21 November 2006.

FILED UNDER: POLITICS, WORLD

<https://www.groundreport.com/open-valentinely-letter-to-lovers/>

OPEN VALENTINELY LETTER TO LOVERS

feb 13, 2010 | politics, world

Dear Lovers,

With Cordial greetings, I wish you a very happy Valentine's Day!

It is not at all wrong to celebrate any day for a positive purpose. When the purpose becomes wrong, the celebration becomes wrong too. In this context, may I remind you that celebrating the Valentine's Day involves a good purpose of loving human beings.

Had human beings no social ideology and humanity-promoting wisdom, the whole human civilization would perish soon. Because human beings have wisdom and knowledge in general, they have been preserving the essence of being human beings. But it does not mean that there exists no bestiality among human beings. Because of the bestial psychology growing among human beings, millions of innocent human beings are suffering a lot. Yet, only one factor such as bestiality is not responsible for the evil consequences we face today. There are many other factors that we need to consider in order to understand why the world is becoming more hellish and bestial than ever before.

Lovers, first of all, let me share with you what I understand by bestiality. It is a condition of not having the essence of being humans. The essence of being humans is humanity. Humanity is against cruelties. It is something to do with preserving the human civilization through transformative thoughts and actions. While human beings hunt human beings in the name of personal prosperity and political domination, this jeopardizes the very process of thinking and working like humans—a distinct species marked with conscience and co-existence character.

Lovers, today we are just being taught to collect money, become richer and become loyal consumers. In the name of hoarding mountains of wealth, the process of criminalization is getting accelerated. Today, smuggling and other criminal networks have become far more powerful than political forces. Even with huge resources and well-equipped control mechanisms, states have failed to control criminal networks. The mystery behind this is that generations of people

with criminal mindset are being produced through our seriously flawed political and socio-economic structures.

To transform such seriously flawed political and socio-economic structures that continuously produce crime-minded generations, contents and motives of education as well as mass communication matter a lot. Unfortunately, education is also being hijacked. Today's education has been designed in a way to brainwash people to become loyal customers of the products and services of multinational corporations on the one hand, and to train certificate holders to become high-selling salespersons for their products on the other. The existing educational traditions or approaches, whatever you call them, are not capable of producing transformation-minded people with moral integrity. Using the existing physical facilities and expertise, providing education geared to transforming the society one lives in is another challenge before mankind.

Essentially concerned with our education are our consumption patterns. Human beings have always become consumers because they need to consume to exist. But today's consumption patterns are different; it is heading towards destroying the human civilization. For instance, huge arms industries definitely require customers throughout the world. Civil and ethnic wars in almost all countries create a global market for weapons. Weapons have never protected human beings. The huge production of weapons means there is no justice in the world. The continuous sale of weapons worth billions means the continuity of war brokering businesses. When war itself has become a gigantic industry generating profits for investors and politicians, the suffering masses of the world face pre-determined massacres. The word 'massacre' itself proves that it is against humanity. It is bestial.

The massacre industries throughout the world provoke wars, small and big, and destroy humanity. This is the bestialization of human minds and hearts. It is a process going on in the name of this and that.

Therefore, Lovers, I urge you not to be physical lovers only. Be humanity-lovers so that love can be shared to fight injustice and cruelties. Love democracy meant for the majority of people. Love the deprived. Love humanity. De-personalize your personal sufferings and mainstream them with the ones of millions of human beings like you. Connect your personal love with the ocean of humanitarian love.

On this occasion, lovers, I urge you to transform your interpersonal love into universal love for the sake of adding more essence and significance to your being lovers.

When we love belligerence, it becomes bestiality. When we adopt bestiality as our political ideology, we lose the whole essence of humanity. This is the crux of celebrating Valentine's Day. Finally, remember that Stone Age human ancestors at least did not make a goal of hunting human beings. They hunted animals to survive before they were able to discover varieties of food and drinks. As for legacy, some 'kings' and their family members still aim at destroying wild life by regular hunting, poaching and smuggling. What is more horrendous in this context is the fact that millions of human beings are being hunted and massacred in different parts of the world. Modern weapons and market giants have facilitated human-hunting industries on a global scale.

Attention, Lovers! The human society has already gone through the World War I and II in 1914-1918 and in 1939-1945. The indicated periods definitely did not belong to the Stone Age. No Stone tools had been used in the two major world wars. Since human beings have already learnt about food and recipes, it is not necessary for them to hunt fellow human beings. May the Valentine's Day remind people of this truth.

Now, human beings have achieved various advanced technologies that have led to remarkable material achievements. Despite remarkable discoveries, inventions and their market applications, the majority of seven billion human beings are forced to live sub-standard life because of morally sub-standard political habits. There has been high-level criminalization in political sectors.

It is the duty of fresh lovers' generations to take initiatives for de-criminalization of our politics and society.

It is the duty of the mass media—involved in Valentine's Day marketing campaigns—to create a sense among teenagers and adults alike that love is not

a Robinson Crusoe thing to be celebrated at burial sites or crematory sites but something to relate to the contribution to the overall wellbeing of humanity.

Finally, Lovers, I urge you to love wisdom, ethics and pro-justice change—so essential for peace and order under which we can live comparatively better and love one another.

Valentinely yours,

Mohan Nepali

<https://www.groundreport.com/no-need-to-follow-peace-agreementdefense-minister-bhandari/>

NO NEED TO FOLLOW PEACE AGREEMENT:DEFENSE MINISTER BHANDARI

jan 19, 2010 | politics, world

Nepal's Defense Minister Biddya Bhandari on Tuesday challenged the government saying that it would not be necessary for the Nepal Army and herself to follow the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the then Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and Maoist rebels.

Speaking in a press conference held by her ministry in Kathmandu, Bhandari stressed that Maoist fighters would at no cost be integrated into Nepal Army. She claimed that there exists no peace agreement for such military integration.

Responding to reporters' queries about the promotion of Army Major General Toran Jung Bahadur Singh to the position of the Army Chief, Defense Minister Bhandari said that an army judge panel had already proved him innocent. She, however, did not answer the question why the Defense Ministry defied the [Supreme Court's](#) order not to promote Singh.

UN human rights agencies and other institutions have objected to the promotion of the Army General to the country's Army Chief's position despite his evidential involvement in the disappearance of 49 detainees in the Bhairabnath Army Battalion in Kathmandu.

In response to another question, Minister Bhandari argued that it would not be necessary to hand over Major Nirajan Basnet to the civil court since the Army court has already proved him innocent in the Maina Sunuwar case.

The UN had expelled Major Nirajan Basnet from the UN Peacekeeping mission in Chad saying that he was nationally and internationally accused of having murdered Maina Sunuwar, a 15-year old girl from Kavre district in Nepal.

Following such open defiance by the Defense Ministry, the whole government is likely to face difficulty facing Maoists' accusation that the current government was formed by over-ruling the elected government's civilian supremacy.

Both Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and Defense Minister Biddya Bhandari belong to the same party—United Marxist-Leninist (UML). Both of them were defeated in the 10-April Constituent Assembly elections in which Maoists emerged as the largest political force in Nepal.

Currently, Maoists have been protesting against the government with a demand to restore civilian supremacy and national independence.

<https://www.groundreport.com/mohan-nepali-recognition-award/>

Mohan Nepali Recognition Award

Oct 12, 2010 | [Media & Tech](#), [World](#)

Mohan Nepali has been a consistent contributor to GroundReport and its leading voice reporting from Nepal. Since joining GroundReport in December 2007, he has written 339 articles, about 10 per month. His writing is very popular. His article on the massacre of immigrants on the border of Mexico and the United State was the third most viewed article last month.

Groundreport is committed to providing a free platform on which all journalists can have a voice and all points of view and interests across the spectrum are represented.

<https://www.groundreport.com/the-question-of-enriching-journalism-through-the-adoption-of-human-rights-spirit/>

THE QUESTION OF ENRICHING JOURNALISM THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SPIRIT

dec 9, 2010 | politics, world

Basic understanding of human rights

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood (Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 1)

Human rights are not granted by anybody or any power. All human beings want to be treated with equal respect and dignity because they are the living beings with reason and conscience. They can use wisdom. Therefore, they are different from other animals on Earth. The differences cultured by the political and socio-economic settings of human society must not be the basis for unfair and discriminatory treatment. All the human beings, due to their birth as human beings, have the same natural or inherent rights regardless of their race, political or other opinions, sex, religion, language, national or social origin, economic status, or any other basis.

Internalization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Journalists, as they are the all-time representatives of people, need to internalize the most fundamental rights not only for the sake of writing themes but also for working as effective journalists.

Civil and Political Rights

- Right to life, liberty and security of person
- Right against slavery and slave trade
- Right against torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Right to recognition as a person everywhere and before the law
- Equality before law and equal protection of law without discrimination

- Right to judicial remedy
- Right against arbitrary arrest, detention or exile
- Right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal
- Right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty
- Right to privacy, family
- Right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state
- Right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country
- Right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution
- Right to a nationality
- Right to marriage and to found a family
- Right to own property
- Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Right to freedom of opinion and expression
- Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- Right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Socio-Economic and Cultural Rights

- Right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment
- Right to equal pay for equal work

- Right to just and favorable remuneration
- Right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.
- Right to rest and leisure
- Right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control
- Right to education
- Right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
- Right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Misperceptions about human rights

- Human rights facilitate misuse of freedom and crimes grow out of the implementation of human rights.
- Human rights destroy socio-cultural values.
- Human rights is a lucrative industry.
- Human rights is a communist agenda
- Human rights are idealist and empty talks, not practically possible in daily life.

Internalizing the Spirit of Human Rights for their implementation

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) clearly speaks that the nations' collective commitment to the peoples' human rights does not imply the freedom of any individual or institution to violate any of the above rights. The

following provisions, as bulleted in the box, elaborate how the human rights declaration is geared towards positive ends:

- Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
- In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
- These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.
- Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Journalistic Writing of Human Rights

The core journalistic principles of accuracy balance, credibility and a sense of social responsibility equally apply to human rights journalism and media analysis. A mere coverage of incidents would never do justice to the human rights approach to journalism. Since the journalists and the mass media are the key information selectors, processors and disseminators on human rights issues and events (like in other areas), undermining their role and accountability affects the overall human rights standards of the society.

Although journalists and media have more or less covered human rights issues in their reporting and writing, this cannot be adequate in a society where victimization process has been all-pervasive and inseparably attached to the psycho-social settings of power-players of the country. To deal with such a serious area of human rights communication, information players have to equip themselves with an adequate repertoire of knowledge about their own society. Rather than parroting what has been taught from the very beginning, trying to master the existing ground realities of the society become extremely helpful in becoming better human rights journalists.

The best additional qualification for journalists to engage in human rights journalism is their genuine interest in the transformation agenda of the human society. Journalists interested in pursuing the human rights spirit have the

potential to shape up human rights-friendly mentality among information recipients while building pressures against those not complying with or violating human rights. In essence, human rights journalists are human rights watchdogs helping the society become better.

Grasping the spirit of human rights means internalizing the truth that real democracy is inalienably concerned with the implementation of human rights from political, socio-economic and cultural perspectives.

Moreover, in-depth analysis and research and interpretation of issues from multiple human rights perspectives are the major challenges for human rights journalists. High level ethical standard and unprejudiced character (equally expected in other areas) are the chief assets of human rights journalists.

While Nepali political leaders and human rights advocates observe the 62nd international human rights day on 10 December 2010, 18 working media persons in Kathmandu have spoken on the human rights approach to journalism. Taking part in a human rights-centered program in Kathmandu, they have admitted lackings in human rights-friendly journalism. The underlying meanings of their discussions are worth considering here.

Many Nepali media have not allocated a human rights beat for journalists though there is a myriad of human rights issues to report and analyze on—some big media have had a human rights beat. It has been felt that the issues of the displaced, the disappeared, and other conflict victims have not been properly followed up.

Journalists seem aware of the growing trend of misusing the human rights field as fraudery industry rather than independently working to create a human rights-friendly atmosphere in the society. There is a bitter feeling that victims' genuine issues, especially related to conflict in the country, have been under-attended to. The tendency of running after politics and leaders has helped to neglect other vital human rights issues in the remote parts of the country. Moreover, no reconciliation strategy has yet been made to address the ongoing human rights violations.

Journalists seem equally aware that Nepal's political parties have ignored the human rights violations of the past. Since the country's political parties have politicized human rights, there is difficulty in protection and promotion of human rights in an independent manner.

A piece of journalistic confession is that journalists usually end up by reporting and writing about routine and comfortable things while so many vital human

rights issues do not find any place. Therefore, the need to review journalistic writing on human rights agenda has been acutely felt in reality. However, some journalists point out the problem that most of them are not in the decision-making level from editorial point of view. Yet, they can take several initiatives as a good attempt. Equipped with rich information, they can also take preliminary decisions at their own level and can play a persuasive role in gaining editorial attention on vital human rights issues that need a frequent follow-up.

Some journalists still need to work hard to internalize the universal truth that the state and state actors are the guarantors of human rights. Mere constitutional and legal provisions Violations by individuals are considered crimes as per laws. However, some journalists, due to their political prejudices, feel that human rights violations are committed not by the state actors but by certain political parties.

While the coverage of human rights issues is just superficial, mainly referring to incidents that some way becomes public, deliberate ignorance or even self-censorship is another difficult in developing a human rights approach to journalism.

Equally felt by many journalists in Kathmandu is the need for human rights education for journalists. Unless journalists themselves are not sensitized to an adequate degree on human rights rationale and principles, it is difficult for them to produce in-depth, analytical-critical and mature journalistic writing on human rights.

A concern, not worth neglecting, raised by journalists themselves is the under-rating of journalists within media institutions. Journalists whose minimum ILO-specified rights have been violated in their institutions cannot be optimistic enough to advocate people's human rights, though victimized journalists are doing their best human rights coverage.

Political protection of criminals in Nepal is a major problem that no journalist forgets to raise. However, mediapersons are the ones who create intellectual pressures against the criminalization of politics and the growing impunity.

Moreover, journalists agree that Nepal has innumerable human rights violations records. Serious human rights violations in the post-1990 period became a key factor for the initiation of Maoist armed insurgency in 1996. Therefore, journalists need to be more transformation-oriented and public-spirited to be good public reporters rather than spokespersons of the privileged community often tending to violate the human rights of the ordinary masses. Journalists, playing a proactive

role, can enrich journalism through human rights perspectives, extremely relevant on a universal scale.

It is a matter of general understanding that human rights advocates must not deal with records and incidents only. They have to make efforts towards developing a level of thoroughness in their reporting and analysis. So should journalists.

In essence, journalists must not cover human rights only to satisfy political needs of the parties. Human rights need to be linked to the concept of applied democracy. The implementation of human rights amounts to the cultivation of democratic values. The agenda of political, socio-economic and cultural transformation, the cornerstones of Nepal's current peace process, are inalienably concerned with the human rights approach to journalism.

Sources for documents:

[HTTP://WWW.UN.ORG/EN/DOCUMENTS/UDHR/INDEX.SHTML](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml)

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<https://www.groundreport.com/un-mission-in-nepal-objects-to-nepal-pms-accusation/>

UN Mission in Nepal objects to Nepal PM's accusation

Jul 12, 2010 [|Politics](#), [World](#)

The UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) has published its objection to Nepal's Caretaker Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal's accusation that the UNMIN is causing the delay in the constitution-drafting work in the country. "The UNMIN has exceeded its limits, it is totally wrong and unacceptable," Mr. Nepal had told reporters in Kathmandu on Friday.

Responding to this remark by the Nepali Prime Minister, UNMIN on Monday produced a statement stating that everything it was doing was within the mandate framework given by

Nepal. The UNMIN statement further stresses that its actions were consistent with the calls by the Security Council regarding the support to the peace process.

A day ago, Nepali Congress leader Sushil Koirala had accused the UNMIN of becoming Maoist advocate. Mr. Koirala has frequently demanded the immediate departure of the UNMIN from Nepal.

Especially, the Nepali Congress and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML)—Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal is one of its leaders—have been accusing the UNMIN of having worked in favor of Maoists in Nepal.

However, independent critics believe that the diplomatic battles are going on between pro-Indian and pro-European forces regarding the existence of UNMIN in Nepal.

<https://www.groundreport.com/vituperative-resignation-by-nepali-pm/>

Vituperative resignation by Nepali PM

Jun 30, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal's Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal on Wednesday resigned accusing the Opposition Maoist party as well as some leaders of his own party of not having cooperated with his government.

Nepal was nominated prime minister by the majority in the Legislative Parliament when Maoist party Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda resigned from his prime minister's post showing the cause of the creation of parallel rule by the then Army Chief as well as President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav. The then Prime Minister Prachanda did not get support from other non-Maoist coalition partners for his action against the then Army Chief Rookmangud Katuwal, who defied the elected government's orders and instructions.

When President Dr. Yadav—ceremonial in constitutional nature—re-appointed the Army Chief sacked by the then executive Prime Minister Prachanda, the Maoist Party had been opposing the Madhav Kumar Nepal-led coalition government that followed the Prachanda-led government in May 2009. Maoists had been demanding the restoration of the civilian supremacy as well as their leadership as the largest political party in a national consensus government since then.

Veteran political sources have diffused some information that the Nepali Congress Party is not yet psychologically prepared to accept the leadership of Maoists in the next government. The national consensus government since the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008 has not been formed yet.

As the resignation letter of Madhav Kumar Nepal is full of vituperations against the Opposition Maoist party, the existing noncooperative attitude among parties is likely to remain, affecting the constitution drafting process.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepalis-in-hongkong-demand-their-prime-ministers-resignation/>

Nepalis in Hongkong demand their prime minister's resignation

May 12, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

According to Hongkong-based sources, the Nepalis based in Hongkong have demanded the immediate resignation of Nepal's Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal since he was illegitimately appointed through the ceremonial president's unconstitutional move that caused Maoist Prime Minister to resign due to the creation of parallel rule in the country.

The branches of the Nepali People's Concern Center, the Limbuwan National Liberation Front, the Magar National Liberation Front, and the Kirat National Liberation Front have expressed their support for the formation of a national consensus government under the leadership of the largest political party—the United Communist Party of Nepal Maoist—in order to take the ongoing peace process to a logical end while protecting and promoting the rights and achievements obtained through the decade-long insurgency and the mass uprising of 2006.

Through a demand letter submitted today to Nepal's Consular General based in Hongkong, they have also accused the current coalition government of collaborating with counterrevolutionary forces conspiring against the revolutionary changes that people want to institutionalize.

<https://www.groundreport.com/current-nepal-government-plans-crimes-against-humanity/>

Current Nepal government plans crimes against humanity

May 6, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

While former Maoist rebels—the half of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed on 21 November 2006—has been on nationwide general strike with a demand to form a government of national consensus with the determination of constitution drafting schedule, Nepal government

headed by Madhav Kumar Nepal has publicly declared a plan to commit crimes against humanity.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Defense Minister Biddhya Bhandari and Home Minister Bhim Rawal have openly asked their party workers and non-political mercenaries to attack and massacre thousands of ordinary people, who are in the streets to protest against the anti-peace process government.

In response to their call, heavily funded mercenaries guided by their party workers have started assaulting passers-by in different areas in Kathmandu. So far, they have murdered two Maoist cadres.

Human rights workers and civil society leaders have strongly objected to this state-sponsored terror in Nepal.

Although the government has been chanting the slogan of peaceful dialogue, it has been mobilizing its plain-clothed security personnel to provoke violence so as to take suppressive steps.

About half a million Maoists and their supporters—mostly working class people—have been demonstrating in Kathmandu in a manner unprecedentedly peaceful and well-managed.

One superintendent of police told this reporter that government has given them authority to fire at masses even if a single piece of stone is hurled at them.

Despite nationwide strike and massive protests against the ‘puppet government,’ as Maoists call it, the prime minister has still refused to step down. He has instead threatened to mobilize Nepal Army against the peaceful demonstrators.

Maoists have not yet made public what special program they would organize on the day 6 of their general strike across the country.

If the government is determined to incite all rightist and criminal gangs against the peaceful protesters, the world is likely to register it as a crime against humanity—something similar to the fascist era.

Most ordinary people have calculated the Maoist entry into the peace process as something worth welcoming, while the ruling elites and conservative and rightist forces, who previously ruled under monarchy, have isolated Maoists as an odd number. People fear it may revoke civil war.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-human-rights-commission-asks-govt-to-punish-armymen-involved-in-bardiya-killing/>

Nepal's Human Rights Commission asks govt to punish army men involved in Bardiya killing

Apr 1, 2010 [|Politics](#), [World](#)

Probe Report Says the Three Murdered Women Were Not Poachers

The investigation report made public on Thursday by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Nepal confirms the three women, one of them being a child, murdered by the Nepal Army on 10 March 2010 in Bardiya were not poachers. Devisara B.K., Amrita B.K. and Chandra Kala B.K. were the victims.

The report, presented in a press conference in Kathmandu, categorically states that the Nepal Army has produced a fake report of the women attacking the security force with guns. The report further confirms that there was no need to use any force against the women, who could easily be taken into [custody](#) for interrogation.

Locals of Bardiya have a different version on the incident. They say they heard gun shots after a day of the women's capture. Nobody in the locality agrees that the murdered women could ever carry guns or be poachers since they were familiar wage-earners in the neighborhood. Instead, they believe that the motive behind capturing and shooting down the unarmed women might be something else.

The NHRC investigation report also indicates that evidences have been concealed or destroyed.

Earlier, Defense Minister Biddhya Bhandari and Army sources had claimed that the three women killed by a patrolling team were well-armed poachers, who first opened fire at the Army personnel.

Nepal's Human Rights Commission asks govt to punish army men involved in Bardiya killing

Apr 1, 2010 [|Politics](#), [World](#)

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<https://www.groundreport.com/nepalis-pay-respectful-tributes-to-koirala/>

Nepalis pay respectful tributes to Koirala

Mar 21, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal needs far-sighted leaders

Thousands of Nepalis on Sunday paid their last tributes to ex-Premier Girija Prasad Koirala, who passed away on Saturday due to COPD. Mr. Koirala had been suffering from the disease for long.

Nepal's government cremates Koirala's dead body with a state honor.

Although he was extremely hostile and intolerant to Marxist forces in the 1990s, he became a key player in the field of peace process towards the end of the decade. He was the one who agreed to take up the leading role in signing the Comprehensive Peace Accord with Maoist insurgents on 21 November 2006. The Maoist insurgents had been fighting against the monarchist rule for 10 years before they agreed to adopt a peaceful approach of politics through a 12-point understanding signed between themselves and the Seven-Party Alliance (SPA).

This reporter talked to some educated men and women in the streets for their brief remarks on the demise of ex-Premier Girija Prasad Koirala. Rita Bhujel, a woman owning a teashop at Baghbazar said, "His life could not sustain till the completion of the drafting of the new constitution. That was what I had expected at least. Similarly, Bigyan Sanjel, a high school teacher thinks that the Nepalis should look forward to the end of the country's conservative politics based on flattery and hypocrisy."Far-sighted leaders must come forward to lead Nepal," he adds.

Stating that Koirala was a front player in the country's peace process, Rom Lal Maharjan (he said he was a Maoist supporter) praised Girija Prasad Koirala for firmness in his opinion, which he would not change so easily. He stressed, "Many other leaders frequently change their opinions for immediate gains."

Vinayak Shakya, a software engineer, has a unique opinion on the demise of Koirala. He states, "Although the media have published their stories as if Nepal loses everything after the demise of Koirala, I don't think this is the fair way of doing journalism. There are many other leaders who can do better by learning from Koirala's quality of self-determination."

Asked how a citizen with political education could view Koirala's demise, Sajina Tuladhar, a student of political science and a local of Kathmandu tries to analyze the case in her own style. She remarks, "Every human being has some sorts of strengths and drawbacks. So did Koirala. His greatest strength was that he was a man of firm resolution. He was not vacillating in his decisions. I think his greatest weakness in politics was that he focused his almost whole political life on his own dynasty—Koirala dynasty."

A different piece of analysis came from an ex-Nepal Armyman. Nara Bahadur Giri, now a security worker in Kathmandu anticipates power struggles within Nepali Congress Party. He calculates, "Nepali Congress is likely to face much crisis since there is a culture of centering their politics on a few elitists."

The demise of Girija Prasad Koirala, who underwent more than six decades of political ups and downs in Nepal, definitely counts emotionally, politically and pragmatically. But the left ones must work more innovatively and collectively to transform Nepal rather than to ruin the country through petty politics. This is the immediately felt challenge following the death of Koirala—the oldest and the most active player in Nepal's politics.

<https://www.groundreport.com/maoists-greatest-challenge-to-peace-and-democracy-in-nepal-pradeep-gyawali/>

Maoists greatest challenge to peace and democracy in Nepal: Pradeep Gyawali

Jan 25, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

United Marxist-Leninist (UML) Pradeep Gyawalik, talking to BBC Nepali Service on Monday, has characterized Nepal's Maoists as the greatest challenge to the country's democracy and peace. He categorically accused Maoists of becoming the only source of all kinds of problems in Nepal.

Maoists, after having entered the mainstream peace process in 2006, emerged as the largest political force through the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008. However, the party now faces exclusion from power.

Leaders of UML have been campaigning nationwide campaigns against former Maoist rebels now in UN-monitored peace cantonments where their arms have been deposited under international supervision.

Maoists have been staging protests for seven months against their exclusion from power though they won the the majority of seats in the country.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-supreme-court-orders-government-to-cancel-promotion-of-army-general/>

Nepal's Supreme Court orders government to cancel promotion of Army General

Jan 3, 2010 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal's Supreme Court on Sunday has ordered the government to cancel the promotion of Army General Toran Jung Bahadur Singh because of his credible involvement in the massacre of 49 detainees when he was in command of the Bhairabnath Brigade.

The court has also ordered government officials to present their answers regarding the question why they knowingly promoted someone nationally and internationally denounced, especially by hundreds of human rights organizations, including [UNOHCHR](#).

Defense Minister Biddya Bhandari had openly defied national and international pressures not to promote Singh since he is also in a blacklist of the Rayamajhi Probe Commission for crimes against humanity.

Minister Bhandari has time and again stood against the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in November 2006. The Agreement is the cornerstone in Nepal's current peace process following a 10-year Maoist People's War that toppled the 240-year Shah dynasty.

At present, unconfirmed reports from Indo-Nepal border areas are coming that arms smugglers affiliated with some previously ruling parties have been smuggling in arms as part of preparation for civil war and against the drafting of new constitution.

After Indian Army Chief Deepak Kapur spoke against Nepal's Comprehensive Peace Agreement stating that Nepal's rebel troops be dismantled without letting them integrate with the national army as per the accord, Nepalis at grassroots level are worried at the possibility of the renewed war between the progressive forces and the regressive ones.

2009

<https://www.groundreport.com/current-status-of-investigative-journalism-in-nepal/>

<https://www.groundreport.com/proposed-buddhist-university-lingering-for-12-years-without-government-recognition/>

PROPOSED BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY LINGERING FOR 12 YEARS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION

jan 30, 2009 | politics, world

Chairman of Nepal's proposed Siddhartha University, emphasizing on Buddhist education, Monk Dr. Sunanda Mahasthavir has voiced that the Nepal government has done injustice to his university by not recognizing it even though it has fulfilled almost all the requirements under the process and procedures defined by the nation's laws.

Answering journalists' questions at a press conference in Kathmandu on Friday, Monk Dr. Sunanda Mahasthavir said that the government has never given any specific cause why it should not recognize the university. Monk Dr. Asthavir accused the University Grants Commission of playing different tricks against the proposed Siddhartha University.

Stressing on the necessity of education and research on Buddhist philosophy for the nation's advancement based on the peaceful principles of Buddhism, he requested the government to recognize the proposed university as soon as possible.

Responding to reporters' queries, he stressed that the proposed Siddhartha University will never try an unethical method in order to persuade government officials to recognize the university.

In the press conference, Monk Dr. Mahasthavir revealed that the government has already recognized some other universities that applied later than the proposed Siddhartha University, which remains undecided till today.

This reporter could not get in touch the concerned government officials who could answer some queries regarding the issue of the proposed Siddhartha University.

So far, there are six universities in Nepal, viz., Tribhuvan University, Nepal Sanskrit University, Kathmandu University, Purbanchal University, Pokhara University, and Lumbini Boudha University.

The University Grants Commission of Nepal is responsible for appropriately advising the government on the establishment of new universities. It has to recommend if proposed universities fulfill the criteria defined by the government.

<https://www.groundreport.com/ucpn-and-uml-seek-to-improve-relations/>

UCPN AND UML SEEK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS

jan 28, 2009 | politics, world

Nepali Prime Minister and Maoist Supremo Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda met with Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) General Secretary Jhalanath Khanal on how to improve the two-party relations getting worsened due to their youth cadres' frequent confrontations at local levels.

The UML, a partner in the Maoist-led coalition government, has sought options for aligning with monarchist and other rightist forces with a view to restoring their position undermined heavily by the 10-April 2008 Constituent Assembly (CA) poll through which the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM) emerged as the largest political party in Nepal.

Immediately after the loss that the UML bore following the CA poll, it formed a fighting squad called Youth Force stating that its combat force could make the party as big as the Maoists' party.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nc-congress-leader-asks-maoists-to-surrender-with-weapons/>

NC CONGRESS LEADER ASKS MAOISTS TO SURRENDER WITH WEAPONS

jan 28, 2009 | politics, world

Nepali Congress (NC) leader Ram Chandra Poudel has expressed his serious discontent over the Maoists' leading role in the current coalition government with their People's Liberation Army (PLA) and weapons in the UN-monitored cantonments. Speaking in his party-led student union program on Wednesday, Poudel asked Maoists to surrender with weapons for earning a democratic trust from others.

<https://www.groundreport.com/journalist-arrested-on-charge-of-affiliation-to-armed-group/>

JOURNALIST ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF AFFILIATION TO ARMED GROUP

feb 3, 2009 | politics, world

According to Radio Nepal, Kathmandu police have arrested President of Reporers' Club Rishi Kumar Dhamala in connection with his affiliation to the Ranavir Sena (an underground armed outfit). Dhamala daily invites political leaders to his Reporters' Club in Kathmandu for discussion on various hot issues.

Police sources have indicated that Dhamala has been arrested not as a journalist but as a suspect accusedly involved in criminal activities.

Some mainstream journalists in Kathmandu told this reporter that Dhamala has close ties with influential leaders of major political parties.

Reports say two other journalists Birendra KM and Ram Shubhak Mahato were arrested on February 1 on information that they were affiliated to the Ranavir Sena. Both of them are Terai-based.

Previous media reports in Kathmandu indicated that the Ranavir Sena (literal translation: War Hero Army) blasted bombs in Kathmandu with a key demand to restore monarchy as well as Hindu kingdom.

Identified and unidentified armed groups have already murdered several journalists in the Terai region of Nepal. The Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), an umbrella body of Nepali journalists, has expressed a serious concern over the growing threat to journalists in the Terai. One central member of the FNJ told this reporter that journalists both in the Terai as well as in Kathmandu feel more insecure due to some other journalists suspected of getting indulged in criminal activities.

<https://www.groundreport.com/first-to-implement-working-journalist-act/>

FIRST TO IMPLEMENT WORKING JOURNALIST ACT

apr 14, 2009 | politics, world

The daily newspaper *Blast Times* published in Nepali language in Eastern Nepal has become the first media in Nepal to declare the implementation of the Working Journalist Act made in 1995. Although the Act was made 14 years ago, no media house, including even the major national media, had implemented it. Instead, many media owners had been claiming that the implementation might cause the closure of media houses and that it might even hamper press freedom.

However, the *Blast Times* has demonstrated that the implementation is possible. But media with nominal circulation may face crisis.

Although the Federation of the Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) has remained almost indifferent to the need of the implementation of the working journalist act, this move by the *Blast Times* in Dharan will put some moral pressure on the umbrella organization of Nepali journalists to think forward on the issue of act non-implementation.

Journalists affiliated to major parties, including the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM) have welcomed the declaration of the *Blast Times*.

One needs to wait some time to see if the multimillion media houses are capable of implementing the act.

<https://www.groundreport.com/democracy-in-peril/>

DEMOCRACY IN PERIL

may 31, 2009 | politics, world

Status Quoists go for military supremacy in Nepal

Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA) Chairman Subhas Nembwang has rejected a motion registered against an unconstitutional step of the country's president.

The Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM), Nepal's largest political party after the 10-April 2009 historical election, had registered the motion for a democratic debate in the CA legislative.

After Prachanda sacked the Army Chief who defied the civilian supremacy by disobeying government instructions, the President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav further defied the executive government by re-appointing the Army Chief Rookmangud Katwal.

As the President aligned with his Nepali Congress party and other monarchist parties, the general public have begun to question his eligibility for holding this head of state position.

Nepal's three-year peace process has now got further complicated after the major previously ruling monarchist and rightist parties have apparently favored the military supremacy over the civilian supremacy.

The coalition partners of the previous government headed by UCPNM Chairman Prachanda had theoretically agreed to sack the Army Chief Rookmangad Katwal whom a special Rayamajhi Probe Commission had already blacklisted and recommended legal actions for his serious human rights violations. However, they foiled the government's action against the Army Chief by boycotting the May 3 cabinet meeting called for the purpose. Following the boycott of the cabinet meeting, the government sacked the Army Chief whom President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav reinstituted him at night.

Maoists have marked this step of the ceremonial president as a serious and silent coup against the establishment of the republic. Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda immediately resigned from his post after the president maintained a parallel rule by openly raping the interim constitution in which no executive power lies in the president.

After having come out of the government, Maoists have preferred their motion against the President's move to be discussed in the Constituent Assembly; however, at the request of anti-Maoist parties, the CA Chairman Subhas Nembwang has banned this agenda from entering the House.

Against this new move by the House Chairman, Maoists have revealed that they would not keep silent over this dictatorship. They have been discussing in their party for launching a peaceful movement demanding for the correction in the president's unconstitutional step, which, they have termed as 'coup'.

Maoists argue that their motion must be allowed to enter the House for debates since it contains serious concerns about the civilian supremacy over the military supremacy. But other parties say that Maoists are totalitarians and that their issue must be banned in the parliament.

Nepal's Maoists returned to parliamentary political system after 10-year armed insurgency in which more than 15 thousand people lost their lives.

Although Maoists' agendas of election of constituent assembly, republic, and federalism have emerged victorious in the country, other previously ruling parties such as the Nepali Congress and the Unified Marxist-Leninist, whom the former insurgents speak of as 'status quoists', still hesitate to accept the presence of Maoists in the mainstream politics.

After the former rebels won most of the election seats in Nepal, the previously ruling parties have created a new alignment against Maoists.

Ordinary people in the streets say that they are afraid of the possibility of foreign-backed military campaigns for mass murder in the near future.

A prolonged civil war may be inevitable if the major political forces, like the ones in Iraq and Afghanistan, prefer to maintain their rule with the economic and military assistance of foreign forces.

Maoists have time and again expressed their commitment to the peace process and peaceful politics.

At present, the UN has been monitoring Nepal's peace process. The Nepali Congress leaders have accused the UN rapporteurs from Europe and America of being Maoists.

<https://www.groundreport.com/uml-leader-accuses-maoists-of-having-assassinated-madan-bhandari/>

**UML LEADER ACCUSES MAOISTS OF HAVING ASSASSINATED
MADAN BHANDARI**

Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) central leader Yogesh Bhattarai on Sunday accused Nepal's "Maoist terrorists" of having assassinated his then party General Secretary Madan Bhandari in 1994 (Maoists had emerged in 1994 and initiated People's War in 1996).

Speaking in a rally organized to protest against Maoists in Kathmandu, Bhattarai said, "Maoists are terrorists, and there will be no peace in Nepal unless we eliminate them."

The UML then party General Secretary Madan Bhandari was killed in a mysterious jeep accident in 1994.

A party probe committee headed by senior leader K P Oli had said in his probe report that it was not an accident but a murder. Although his report did not specify who murdered the leader, he had demanded further investigation and necessary actions to punish the criminal.

About 200 UML activists and supporters had participated in the rally. When UML leader Yogesh Bhattarai accused the Maoists of having murdered his then party General Secretary in 1994, all of the participants of the rally spontaneously left the venue feeling extremely embarrassed at the horribly degraded political morality of the speaker.

When the venue was empty within five minutes of the start of the corner speech, the organizers, bowing their heads, packed mikes and banners and silently left the venue.

When this reporter asked some of the participants why they suddenly left the venue, they said that their leader spoke something that would help to further degenerate the already weakened party. They said that K P Oli was the chief intra-party agent assigned to murder Madan Bhandari.

One Asbin Dhungel of Ramechhap told this reporter that he was sure that K P Oli tried to murder Ishwor Pokhrel, current party General Secretary, in Ramechhap. It was the activists of KP Oli who dropped a big stone down the hill with an attempt to kill UML current General Secretary Ishwor Pokhrel.

Another man, around 40, said that Oli has already promised to project Nepal back into civil war.

Three days ago, Oli had publicly instructed his fighting squad the Youth Force to attack Maoists all over Nepal.

Although K P Oli of the UML is considered one of the most powerful leaders and crafty speakers in Nepal, the Nepalis heavily defeated him in the 10-April Constituent Assembly in 2008 from his home district Jhapa accusing him of working as an agent of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the Indian international intelligence wing.

Oli has not been able to refute the accusation of "being a traitor," a title the people gave him after he played the chief role in getting the Mahakali Treaty signed with India in 1998. The Treaty is believed to have facilitated Indian SSB force to move ahead by encroaching Nepal's territories.

Out of about 200 rally participants, most of them just left the venue criticizing speaking leader, who frequently used the word "Maoist terrorists". They commented that their own party has signed the Comprehensive Peace Treaty in November 2006 with Maoists. "Why do they use this objectionable phrase while the peace process has reached this stage during three years,?" they question.

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-condemns-promotion-of-army-officer-involved-in-crimes-against-humanity/>

UN CONDEMNS PROMOTION OF ARMY OFFICER INVOLVED IN CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

jul 7, 2009 | politics, world

Kathmandu-based Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Richard Bennett has voiced concern over Nepal government's decision to promote Toran Jung Bahadur Singh from Major General to Lieutenant General.

A press release issued on Tuesday evening refers to the OHCHR report of 2006 on its investigation into torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances carried out at Maharajgunj Barracks, which was under the control of a battalion led by Maj.-Gen. Singh in 2003-04 during the conflict between Government forces and Maoists.

The OHCHR then had recommended the urgency of punishment for the direct leadership and involvement of Mr. Singh in the crimes against humanity.

Mr. Bennett has met Defense Minister Bidya Bhandari and objected to the promotion of the army officer held responsible for the crimes against humanity.

Informal sources say about five thousand citizens, mostly voiceless citizens belonging to the most marginalized communities, have disappeared. The state does not appear to have had statistics about them. However, National Human Rights Commission of the country, has a record of more than 1000 citizens disappeared by the state.

During the insurgency period from 1996 to 2006, Nepal was top-listed for disappearances of citizens committed by the state in the name of counterinsurgency methods.

The current government of Nepal was formed recently (full cabinet not formed yet) against the outgoing Prime Minister Prachanda's attempt to sack the Army Chief Rookmangud Katwal notorious for explicitly defying the elected civilian government. Mr. Katwal was also blacklisted for crimes against humanity; however, UML, Congress and other rightist cum monarchist parties restored him and expelled the elected government.

Current Status of Investigative Journalism in Nepal

Oct 14, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Investigative Journalism has a mission of digging out truth and diagnosing deep-rooted problems in the human society. Investigative journalists' work is different from normal reporting. It challenges those wishing to remain latent operators of society. It, therefore, is a highly challenging responsibility.

Many journalists in Nepal still feel extremely insecure to practice their journalistic profession in a truthful manner. They believe there are many barriers to practicing journalistic principles and ethics in favor of the majority of the working class people. In fact, the working class people are the ones named frequently by Nepali politicians, who actually devote themselves to the interests and priorities of elitist politics. Consequently, democracy has always been hijacked. So has press freedom.

Due to the nexus between politicians and criminal gangs in the country, journalists usually face life threats from smuggling and other criminal gangs. This situation has led away the mainstream as well as alternative journalists from the required level of investigative journalism practice.

However, it does not mean that Nepali journalists have completely ignored the need of investigative journalism practices. They find it more comfortable to carry out their investigative journalism focusing on environmental, gender and economic issues. Due to all-pervasive ill-governance and corruption in all tiers of state systems, journalists are well aware that the state cannot protect them. In this context, what is strikingly true is the fact that they fear most irresponsible state mechanisms more than criminal gangs.

It is natural for Nepali journalists to fear the state to such a degree because they sort of believe that the state protects criminal gangs rather than truth-digging investigative journalists. This is perhaps one of the major causes why Nepali journalists shift their focus on to other issues despite the rapid expansion of crime industry in the country.

If one goes through the news coverage of the Nepali media, both electronic and print, one will find so many news stories of rape, kidnap, robbery, murder, money laundering, smuggling and more. Searchers will also discover from the news cover that most of such incidents often happen with the help of underground forces within state mechanisms. It is not difficult to understand that such underground state mechanisms serving crime industries definitely put more threats to investigative journalists. This may be another considerable cause for hesitation to become investigative journalists.

Several senior Nepali journalists, who have been in the media sector for more than 25 years, say they have not become professional investigative journalists because no appropriate environment exists there. But they admit that they have also practiced investigative journalism in different forms and to different degrees.

Nepali journalists have seen certain efforts to recognize the importance of investigative journalism. For instance, two workshops were held in 2006: one in Pokhara and the other in Lalitpur. But the theme was more concerned with theoretical approaches to interpreting corruption than with the accelerating process of criminalization within state mechanisms. However, showing interest in investigative journalism should be considered positive.

Some books on investigative journalism written by Nepali journalists can be found in the books. For example, *khaj Patrakarita (Investigative Journalism)* written by Mohan Mainali and Binod Bhattarai, *Dharap (ambush)* edited by Basanta Thapa and Mohan Mainali, and *Bigreko Bato (Spoilt Path)* edited by Kedar Sharma.

So far, the state (most Nepalis don't believe there exists a state in Nepal) has done much to discourage Nepali journalists as far as investigative journalism and free media practice in general are concerned. But the possibility of practicing investigative journalism through public networks strongly exists. The question is how to create and strengthen public networks that can safeguard and promote investigative journalism. For this, powerful media institutions that include not only the mass media in general but also the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) and other media NGOs.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-peace-process-in-peril/>

Nepal's peace process in peril

Dec 30, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

After Maoist Supremo Prachanda breathed out an uncontrolled fire against the Nepali Congress (NC) and the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) stating that he would have talks with India directly because the ruling parties, Indian slaves according to him, ignored the Opposition's seven month-long protests, NC and UML leaders have immediately begun retaliating saying that Maoists are the exact slaves of India. Prime Minister and UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal, his colleagues Khadga Oli and Jhala Nath Khanal have already accused Maoists of trying to invite Indian interference into Nepal's internal affairs.

Narayan Man Bijuckchhe, a local leader of Bhaktapur district, has also labeled a similar accusation on the Maoists. He has time and again stated that Maoists are anti-Nepal. He has even demanded a military rule as soon as possible. When President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, who instructed former Army Chief Katawal to disobey the elected government, went to dine with Bijuckchhe about a month ago, he urged the president to take immediate actions to dissolve the elected Constituent Assembly and impose a Presidential rule backed by the Army.

Several NC leaders have also met the president and demanded for the military rule. Ashok Rai, UML Deputy Chair, has already spilled out a secret proposition by some Nepali Congress leaders for the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly and the imposition of military rule.

Defense Minister and UML leader Biddhya Bhandari, the widow of allegedly murdered UML then General Secretary Madan Bhandari, has already promoted one army general accused of disappearing 49 detainees in a barrack in Kathmandu. She has apparently defied the requests by national and international human rights agencies not to promote an accused official. Instead, she has stood for purchasing more weapons and war materials.

These recent happenings have posed serious questions before the three-year peace process. Conflict communicators and analysts must heed these questionable happenings.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-promotes-army-general-blacklisted-for-disappearances/>

Nepal government promotes Army General blacklisted for disappearances

Dec 24, 2009 [|Politics, World](#)

Nepal government on Thursday promoted Nepal Army Major General Toran Bahadur Singh to Lieutenant General. The Rayamajhi Probe Commission formed in 2006 had blacklisted Mr. Singh as responsible for the arbitrary detention, torture and the disappearance of 49 detainees in the Bhairabnath Battalion in 2001 in Kathmandu.

Nepal government took this decision while the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and other national and international human rights institutions have been urging the government to provide justice to the victims.

Former Maoist rebels have been protesting against what they call ‘military supremacy’ for seven months. They have been in the UN-monitored peace process for 44 months.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-congress-leaders-urge-president-to-impose-military-rule/>

Nepali Congress leaders urge President to impose military rule

Dec 7, 2009 [|Politics, World](#)

Some Nepali Congress leaders have urged Nepal’s President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav to impose the Presidential rule to complete the constitution-making process. Congress leaders KB Gurung, Govinda Raj Joshi, Khum Bahadur, Laxman Prasad Ghimire, Binay Dhoj Chand and some others asked the president to think of a possible Marshal rule. This information has been made public nationwide.

They had flocked to the Presidential Palace on Monday with the theme of pressurizing the president to take a military step.

The leaders, before the declaration of republic on 28 May 2008, had tried to create some public opinion for maintaining monarchy in the form of ‘baby king,’ an idea the Nepalis rejected outright.

Narayan Man Bijukchhe, a Bhaktapurian leader who supported former King Gyanendra’s coup d’etat imposed on 1 February 2005, has also demanded for the Presidential rule to restore monarchy.

Ordinary people in the streets have expressed their deep hatred against such regressive thoughts.

<https://www.groundreport.com/indian-military-intervention-in-nepal/>

Indian military intervention in Nepal

Nov 23, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

India has floated its signal of military intervention against Nepal by openly flying its supersonic fighter planes into Nepal's territories on Monday once again, according to Radio Miremi based in Kathmandu. The radio has based its news coverage of the incident on the reports obtained from many locals of Western Nepal. According to several supersonic fighter planes roamed in the sky above Rolpa, Rukum, Salyan and Darchula, the strongholds of former Maoist rebels.

Nepal government has expressed its unknownness to the incident. However, local intelligence sources have admitted to the violation of Nepali territories by Indian fighter planes.

India had spied against Nepal by flying its fighter planes into Nepal's territories on [21 October](#).

Local villagers of Salyan, Rolpa and Darchula, who clearly saw the Indian fighter planes over their villages found the violation more threatening than before.

Analysts have viewed this incident as a possible symptom of Indian military intervention against Nepal.

Former Maoist rebels have termed the current coalition government as the Indian puppet. They have been campaigning against the government led by UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal, defeated from both of his constituencies in the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April, 2008.

Maoists emerged as the largest political party in Nepal following the elections. They are in the UN-monitored peace process for more 43 months

<https://www.groundreport.com/diesel-and-kerosene-prices-go-up-in-nepal/>

Diesel and Kerosene Prices Go Up in Nepal

Nov 17, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal Oil Corporation, the country's state-owned trader, has on Tuesday increased the prices of diesel and kerosene each by Rs. 03.00 per litre, according to Commerce Secretary Purushottam Ojha.

The Corporation has attributed the price rise to the state's inability to control the re-sale of diesel and kerosene at a higher price, at Nepali border points with India.

It has stated no other factor for the rise.

The price rise of diesel and kerosene directly affects the lives of the working class people in Nepal.

Supply Minister Rajendra Mahato had warned one month ago that the petroleum price was going to be increased soon.

Nepal is yet far behind in the combat against all-pervasive corruption, ill-governance and dysfunctions of its state mechanisms.

The present rise in the petroleum price is also considered as an indicator of the heavy influence of black market forces, operating in nexus with political players, on state power mechanisms.

<https://www.groundreport.com/protests-paralyze-nepal-government-headquarters-police-fires-at-leaders/>

Protests paralyze Nepal government headquarters; police fires at leaders

Nov 12, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

While Maoist protests on Thursday completely paralyzed Nepal government headquarters at Singha Durbar in Kathmandu, the security personnel deployed at the South Gate of Singhadurbar fired at senior Maoist leaders Dev Gurung, Ananta and Amik Sherchan. According to Radio Mirmire, more than 60 others were injured with rubber bullets and tear gas shells.

Nepal's Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal was unable to attend his office as thousands of Maoist protesters besieged the government headquarters from eight different locations.

Out of 46 ministers in the government, only four were in their office, the government-owned Nepal Television reported. The four ministers had furtively entered their complex at 04:00, four hours before the Maoist protesters began to appear on roads. Not a single minister belonging to the prime minister's party—UML—was able to come to office, reports confirm.

To further reinforce the protests, film artists, singers, musicians and literary figures had also staged their programs on roads. Maoists—now in the UN-monitored peace process—have been staging renewed protests for seven months with a demand of parliamentary discussion on President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav’s overruling of the sacking of the then Army Chief Rookmangud Katawal by the elected Prime Minister Prachanda.

Media reports in May 2009 show the Army Chief used parallel executive power by defying the elected government’s orders. This had led the then Prime Minister Prachanda to take actions against him. After President Dr. Yadav, though without any executive power, reinstated the Army Chief sacked by the Maoist-led government, Maoist Chairman Prachanda resigned his prime ministership stating that he wanted to avoid violence likely to result out of parallel rules.

Maintaining civilian supremacy—making the country’s army generals work under the elected government as Maoists clarify—has been the protesters’ principal demand which the current alliance of 22 parties (most of them with only one seat in the parliament) has rejected.

Civil Society members have suggested the government to allow the issue of civilian supremacy to be discussed in the parliament. However, the coalition partners have adopted an exclusionary approach against the Maoists, who stood the largest political party in the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-threatens-to-use-army-against-anti-government-protesters/>

Nepal government threatens to use army against anti-government protesters

Nov 8, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal’s Defense Minister Vidya Bhandari has threatened to use the government army against Maoist protesters. This is her continuous reiteration over more than a week.

Ms. Bhandari was defeated in the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections held on 10 April 2008.

Earlier Deputy Prime Minister Vijay Gachchhedhar had given a similar threat regarding the ongoing Maoist protests against the government across Nepal.

Maoists—currently in the UN-monitored peace process—have been protesting against the current coalition government headed by UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal. Mr. Nepal was also defeated in the CA elections.

After becoming Nepal’s largest political party through the CA elections, Maoists had headed the previous coalition government. Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda took action against the then

Army Chief Rookmangud Katawal for his parallel decision-making role challenging the executive government.

Ceremonial President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, at the request of anti-Maoist alliance, approved of the Army Chief's parallel power exercises against the elected Prime Minister Prachanda in May 2009.

This parallel rule against the Maoist-headed government led Prachanda to immediately resign his office to avoid any untoward consequences.

Maoists, since then, have been demanding that the agenda of civilian supremacy be debated in the Legislative-Parliament composed of the elected CA members. They have gone to people for support.

But the current anti-Maoist political coalition and its government have firmly refused to discuss the agenda of civilian supremacy in the House. Instead, they have threatened to use the Nepal Army to quell protests.

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-concerned-over-nepals-peace-process/>

UN concerned over Nepal's peace process

Nov 3, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) today strongly urged Nepali political forces, including those in government, to ensure that human rights of all individuals are protected. It has called on both Nepal government and Maoist protesters not to resort to any violence since it may jeopardize the very peace process going on since 2006.

The OHCHR expressed its concern on the likelihood of violence in the name of Maoist protests and subsequent government actions. However, Maoist Chairman Prachanda and Deputy leader Dr. Baburam Bhattarai have already reconfirmed that their protests would be peaceful in nature.

Nepal cabinet ministers, especially Home Minister Bhim Rawal, Defense Minister Vidya Bhandari and Media Minister Shankar Pokhrel have, all defeated in the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008, have publicly called on security forces to behave Maoist protesters as armed fighters.

Maoist rebels joined the mainstream peace process in 2006 on condition of drafting a new constitution with inclusive and federal characteristics. Following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between Maoists and the then Seven Party Alliance (SPA) in November 2006, Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) men and their arms are in the UN-monitored cantonments while their political leadership has stood as the largest political party in Nepal.

Currently, most of the political parties at the initiative of the Nepali Congress and the UML have unitedly boycotted Maoists, who have frequently reiterated their commitment to the ongoing peace process.

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-iraq-afghanistan-and-nepal/>

UN, Iraq, Afghanistan and Nepal

Oct 28, 2009 | [Opinion](#), [World](#)

Speaking in a special press conference at the Headquarters, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today regretted over the attack on the UN mission and the losses caused. He condemned the attack as a “shocking and shameless act”. It is natural for the UN Secretary-General to remain worried about such international issues.

While speaking in the press conference, the Secretary-General also referred to a bomb attack in Iraq in which hundreds were killed and wounded earlier this week. On Iraq, he said, “As elsewhere, these acts of violence target the innocent and aim to disrupt the country’s fragile democracy.”

Ban did not fail to refer to Afghanistan again. He stated, “I urge Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Karzai to uphold the law and the Constitution; to encourage participation of the Afghan people; and, after the vote, to work to unify the country around an agenda for progress.” He added, “The United Nations is committed to doing all it can to support the Afghan people as they once again cast their ballots and shape the destiny of their country.”

Statements used by the Secretary-General deserves some analysis for understanding the international perception of democracy and conflict management methods.

Ban Ki-moon’s phrase “fragile democracy” referring to Iraq shows that the democracy implanted by the US and NATO forces there is the one he refers to. While most of the Iraqis are against the foreign occupation escorting US-trained Iraqi representatives, there can be no question of democracy—fragile or strong. When the very human right to life itself is being snatched every day due to the repercussions caused by the military occupation by other countries, how possible is it for the Iraqis to defend what the aggressors impose? No one can guarantee if the Iraqis opposing the foreign occupation and its Iraqi representatives ever defend the “fragile democracy” established with the help of military aggression.

A similar reference can be made to the case of Afghanistan. Ban Ki-moon stressed on Afghan people’s participation in voting. From a democratic perspective, he is right to seek people’s maximum participation in elections. But the ground realities signify differently. When

everything in Afghanistan is decided by military aggressors and when staged Afghan messiahs of democracy themselves are the do-or-die activists most loyal to the foreign military aggressors, there is little possibility of the practice of democratic norms and values.

By principle, Ban Ki-moon is not wrong at all to state all those stereotyped principles and ideals. His job specifications are clear: he cannot go beyond the stereotyped role as the usual secretary-general. If he ever proposes transformative agenda for the mankind, powerful fund contributors will immediately organize a farewell program. For this particular reason, it is his natural role. But what is most surprising in this context is that all nations—the most powerful to the weakest—maintain total silence over the ‘democracy’ being defined by aggressors and military leaders.

A similar context can be found in Nepal, where a peace process-monitoring UN mission is working. When the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) tries to encourage the major component of the peace process—former Maoist rebels—to adopt peaceful and pluralist politics, other parties such as the Nepali Congress (NC) and the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) are very frightened with the presence of Maoists in peaceful politics. One evidence of this can be found in the immediate polarization of 22 parties against the Integrated Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (ICPNM) that emerged as the largest political force of Nepal after the peaceful Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008.

Maoists’ participation in the elections aiming at drafting a new federal republican constitution and its emergence as the largest political party unfortunately became the causes for the downfall of the NC and the UML (that often refer to themselves as top-rate democrats). Seeing whether former Maoist rebels can transform themselves in a truly democratic sense requires some time. But the NC and the UML, in the main, are threatening the very peace process—satisfactorily going ahead from 2006—through undemocratic and unconstitutional methods.

When the Whitehouse and New Delhi concluded that former Maoist rebels must in no way be accepted as the protagonists in Nepal’s political scenario, they favored the NC and the UML in the vanguard. Especially Indian rulers, who are very obedient to the Whitehouse, see Nepal’s government formation from their colonialist perspectives.

Current Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal was defeated from both of his constituencies. Many other prominent ministers were also defeated candidates. However, the NC and UML have on purpose committed historical blunders by forcefully appointing all those defeated candidates as cabinet ministers. What message does it give to the Nepalis aspiring for vast changes and peace?

Nepal’s 22 parties have proposed the total annihilation of former Maoist rebels and their supporters—who have emerged as the largest party through peaceful elections. They used the country’s ceremonial president and the then army chief as an effort to reverse the peace process being monitored by the UN since 2006. Has the international community been able to perceive that Nepal’s peace process is being endangered by the deep-rooted change-resisting rightist forces?

Thus, ground realities suggest that mere elections do not guarantee peace. Stakeholders' mindset is the fundamental determinant. For example, if the international community cannot change its attitude towards the adoption of peaceful and democratic politics by rebels in any country, the concerned people will continue suffering from exacerbated violence because anti-peace process forces (profiting from violence and wars) will make maximum use of the ideological prejudices and intolerance available in the international political market.

Similarly, if military aggressors in Iraq and Afghanistan become the chief decision-makers in the name of democracy, the cycle of violence and massacres are likely to continue. It is the mindset of political stakeholders that can determine the level of peace and political stability. And when the international community maintains its ideological prejudices as to judging the peace process in other countries, it cannot be a constructive help. This applies not only to Iraq, Afghanistan and other war-torn nations but also to Nepal that went through a decade-long armed Maoist insurgency in which about 15,000 people died.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-army-chief-attending-military-conference-in-usa/>

Nepal Army Chief attending military conference in USA

Oct 23, 2009 [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal Army Chief Chhatraman Gurung leaves Kathmandu on Saturday for the United States of America on a week-long tour. He has already made public that his visit is for attending a military conference in Honolulu.

Nepal government, at Gurung's recommendation, has handed over the Army Chief's acting responsibility to Toran Jung Singh until the Army Chief returns home.

Singh is in the list of Rayamajhi probe commission report in which he is charged with playing a leading role in the mass disappearance of dozens of Maoist detainees from the Bhairabnath Barrack—often cited by human rights institutions, local and international.

Maoist Chairman and former Prime Minister Prachanda had resigned in May when President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, who holds no executive power at all, reinstated the previous Army Chief Rookmangud Katawal whom the Prachanda-led government had sacked for his defiance against the elected government. Gurung succeeded Katawal after he retired.

Gurung is the first Army Chief belonging to the indigenous community background. He has already graduated in military studies from US Command and General Staff College, Leavenworth in USA.

<https://www.groundreport.com/indian-fighter-plane-over-nepali-sky/>

Indian fighter plane over Nepali sky

Oct 22, 2009 [Politics](#), [World](#)

An Indian supersonic fighter plane on Thursday has violated Nepal's sky in Darchula district in the name of patrolling Indian border territories. Nepal's local officials and eye-witnesses have confirmed this violation.

According to Radio Mirmire, Darchula-based Nepali security posts admitted that the Indian airforce had violated international treaties by randomly flying into Nepal's territories.

Nepal government's official comment is yet to come out.

India, though it officially has not claimed yet, frequently treats Nepal as one of its Himalayan provinces. The Nepalis, for decades, have been making a regular objection to this colonialist practice of India.

After 17-year-long collaboration with Russia, India had been able to produce a fighter plane of its own in 2001.

<https://www.groundreport.com/middle-ranking-nepali-congress-leaders-hold-secret-meeting/>

Middle-ranking Nepali Congress leaders hold secret meeting

Oct 21, 2009 [Politics](#), [World](#)

While Nepali Congress (NC) President and former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has adopted silence over the appointment of his daughter Ms. Suajata Koirala as Nepal's deputy prime minister in the current 22-party coalition government, some middle-ranking NC leaders have met secretly in a corner of Kathmandu.

According to political sources, some of the leaders who met to forge out their tactics to cope with any possible blows from Mr. Koirala include Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Chiranjivi Wagle, Dr. Narayan Khadka, Purna Bahadur Khadka, Bimalendra Nidhi, Prakashman Singh, Ram Chandra Poudel, Bala Bahadur KC, Sushil Koirala and Nara Hari Akcharya. They are understood to have discussed over possible tactics to cope with the dictatorship and Maoists' advancement in the country.

Among those who met, Ram Chandra Poudel and Sushil Koirala are reported to have stressed on institutionalizing Ms. Sujata Koirala's appointment as the country's deputy prime minister at the personal request of her father and NC President Girija Prasad Koirala. Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel said, "We are not against the appointment of any NC leader as deputy prime minister. We are

against the personal approach involved in it, which undermines democratic practices,” sources quoted.

However, another NC leader Mr. Nara Hari Acharya is understood to have stood for the replacement of Ms. Koirala by somebody better qualified for the post.

Most of the participants in the discussion are reported to have pledged to fight against hereditary rule within the NC.

The sources further state that NC leaders participating in this secret meeting also discussed on the tactics to cope with the growing influence of Maoists throughout the nation. They are understood to have seen Maoists’ entry into the mainstream peace process as a major threat to the existence to their party politics. They put blame on Mr. Koirala for the progress of Maoists. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, who is also believed to have been associated with CIA, stressed on the NC stand against the integration of Maoist People’s Liberation Army (PLA) men into the Nepal Army, sources stated. However, he was not against the rehabilitation of the PLA men.

The Comprehensive Peace Accord signed between Maoist rebels and the then Seven Party Alliance (SPA) in 2006 was a major milestone in Nepal’s peace process, still undergoing. Following the emergence of former Maoist rebels as the largest political force with its commitment to pluralist and peaceful politics in the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008, Maoist agenda of republic mandated by the 2006 mass uprising against the feudal monarchy was formally implemented through a declaration in the first meeting of the elected Constituent Assembly. Since then the NC has returned to its regressive mood.

Analysts doubt the success of the peace process while almost all parties have united to project the former armed rebels into the brink of violence. Maoists, however, have re-affirmed their indomitable attachment to the current peace process.

<https://www.groundreport.com/ideological-prejudices-kill-200-diarrhea-patients-in-nepal/>

Ideological prejudices kill 200 diarrhea patients in Nepal

Jul 26, 2009 |[Opinion](#), [World](#)

Nepali media had begun to bring out news reports on the diarrhea outbreak in Jajarkot from April 2009. Follow-up news reports on Jajarkot diarrhea spread show that about 100 patients lost their lives by the third week of this month. But the toll rose to at least 150 by the first half of the fourth week of this month.

However, neither any government health mechanism nor any mass media adopted an investigative approach. Consequently, all were pronouncing the word ‘diarrhea’.

In fact, public nonaccountability and lack of accurate information have contributed to the spread of the communicable disease. Both the government and the media were taking the case lightly as a simple diarrhea.

The death toll in the district shows that the district government mechanisms, especially the health sector, are defunct. If such defunct mechanisms are the reality in today’s Nepal, this is one of the greatest threats to Nepal’s sovereignty as well because they will never watch out against frequent border encroachment by India.

But the major political forces of Nepal, who have more supporters and mobilizational ability, appear more negligent over such defunct state mechanisms.

The death toll caused by the ‘diarrhea’ in the district shows how self-centered the power-holders are.

The government has not yet declared health emergency in the district. Deaths have continued. Government officials have blamed the victims themselves for their deaths. “They are illiterate. They do not follow rules of hygiene and sanitation. They do not go to health centers,” officials remark accusatorily.

Local sources from Jajarkot, Rolpa and Rukum indicate that the current government is prejudiced against the victimized in those districts, the strongholds of Maoists, who mainly base their politics on the issues of the Dalit community and the deprived. Most of the victims are Dalits and malnourished destitutes, the supporters of Maoists.

In this context, Maoists must also admit to their shortcomings. They have to be accountable to their supporting masses. If they hope much from the defunct state mechanisms, their political life itself will go defunct. They must stress on mobilizing their own resources as far as they can because people-oriented politics is not done only while in state positions but also when out of power.

Regarding the diarrhea-caused deaths in Jajarkot, some questions naturally arise in mind: is the state punishing the victims for their ideological faith? Nepal government’s negative attitude towards them shows the pre-set state character against the working class population. This is something modern democrats, who tirelessly preach human rights, must consider.

After all, what is state? Is it just a ruling tool or a public spirit of managing public issues?

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-security-council-hears-report-on-nepal/>

UN Security Council hears report on Nepal

Jul 20, 2009 [|Politics](#), [World](#)

Consultations on Nepal peace process have been held among the UN Security Council members on Monday.

Secretary General's Special Representative for Nepal Karin Landgren, also the UNMIN Chief in Kathmandu, briefed the Council members on Nepal's request for further stay of UNMIN and the Secretary-General's report on the issue.

She reported to the Council meeting that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had stressed on the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army and the drafting of a new constitution for success in the overall peace process.

The Council is reported to soon issue a formal decision on the UNMIN's extension in Nepal. After the extension, the UNMIN will work in Nepal until 23 January 2010.

Earlier, Nepal government had requested the UN to extend the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), a mechanism meant for monitoring the peace process and making necessary recommendations.

Nepal entered the peace process in April 2006 following the fusion of 10-year Maoist armed insurgency and the peaceful mass uprising that paved the way for the abolition of feudal monarchy in May 2008 after the elections of the Constituent Assembly in April 2008.

Nepal's Civil Society members consider the current rightist coalition government a threat to the ongoing peace process.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-peace-process-in-un-security-council/>

Nepal's peace process in UN Security Council

Jul 20, 2009 [|Politics](#), [World](#)

A meeting of the UN Security Council is reported to be approving the extension of the United Nations Mission to Nepal (UNMIN) that monitors and reports about the ongoing peace process in Nepal. Media reports in Kathmandu confirm that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon is recommending the UNMIN's extension to the Security Council today.

Nepal government had recently requested the UN to extend the UNMIN's stay in Nepal for six more months since the peace process has not yet reached a logical end.

Meanwhile former Prime Minister and Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala have said that Maoist rebels must not be integrated into Nepal Army. He gave this remark following a similar remark by the Army Chief Rookmangud Katwal a few days ago.

As per the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 21 November 2006 between the Communist Party of Nepal—Maoist (CPN-M) and the Seven Party Alliance—states in point 4.4, “The Interim Council of Ministers shall work to supervise, integrate and rehabilitate the Maoist combatants.”

According to the peace accord, Maoist fighters remain in seven cantonments with scanty physical infrastructures. From within their cantonments, they have repeatedly warned the state that they would not like to end up as detainees there but would like to come back to normal life. However, the Nepali Congress and other rightist parties have vehemently objected to the integration of the Maoist ex-guerrillas.

Former Maoist rebels have accused the current coalition government led by the UML as an Indian ‘puppet’.

The Nepalese still fear the restart of civil war as the current government has begun its reversion campaigns against Maoist insurgency and the April 2006 mass uprising that paved the way for the abolition of monarchy and replacement by a republic on 28 May 2008. Many political analysts in Kathmandu thinks that Nepal may go back to days of armed violence if the current government reverses democratic changes which was aimed by the decade-long Maoist armed insurgency and people's mass uprising in April 2006.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepalis-enraged-at-state-for-privatizing-drinking-water/>

Nepalis enraged at state for privatizing drinking water

Jun 11, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

“We’ve been paying just the water supply bill without getting water. What a state we’ve got!” remarks Shova Khadgi of Dhalku, Kathmandu when asked if she gets drinking water. As she has

to buy jarred water from the market for home consumption, she says she is very angry against the government that works more for elites and business community rather than for the general public. She admits that she has little knowledge regarding the political changes in Nepal, ranging from the feudal monarchy to democracy and federal republic. However, she adds, “I don’t know why parties can’t work as they promise. I have no political knowledge. But I expect good things to happen at least.”

Khadgi is not the only person suffering from the puzzling question over the scarcity of drinking water. Drinking water officials kept by the state always complain of the population growth and the lack of resources.

Nirmal Kumar Siwakoti, who said he recently shifted to Kathmandu from Jhapa, thinks that the Nepal government is controlled by business forces. He puts his logic, “The Nepal government has ample capacity to supply drinking water to the whole population of the Kathmandu valley. But the government is facilitating markets only for private drinking water companies.” Giving examples, he adds, “Look, there are dozens of private drinking water companies in Kathmandu who sell drinking water to people with the certainty of 100 percent net profit. What is this?”

Perhaps Siwakoti is right to a greater extent. Everywhere in Kathmandu, drinking water is being heavily transacted. Thousands of private and nongovernmental institutions in Kathmandu buy drinking water from private companies; however, water rarely drops from people’s home taps.

Harka Lal Dangol of Bhaktapur, a vegetable producer, accuses government forces of serving private entrepreneurs only. “We have not got a people’s government yet. A people’s government gives the greatest attention to people’s wellbeing,” he believes.

Observing the current situation of Nepal, Sujit Ramtel of Kathmandu raises a question, “Can a country’s government protect its sovereignty and serve its people if it even cannot guarantee a vital thing of life—water?”

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-political-parties-inspect-border-territory-encroached-by-india/>

Nepal’s political parties inspect border territory encroached by India

Jun 9, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

The International Relations and Human Rights Committee under Nepal’s Legislative Parliament and the All-Party team have on Tuesday set on a trip to inspect Dang district’s territorial areas encroached by the Indian paramilitary border force SSB.

Mr. Padam Lal Bishwokarma and Mr. Amik Sherchan have headed the teams respectively.

Indian SSB force had apparently encroached the Nepali territory in Dang district, kidnapped and raped several women, according to victims, now hiding in the Community Forest of the district. Current media reports have confirmed of the border encroachment.

Still about 1200 victims are said to have been hiding in the Community Forest.

The current government headed by UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal, accused of being an Indian puppet, has not yet officially briefed international reporters on the incident while the Indian ambassador to Nepal Rakesh Sood has spoken a blatant lie to the world that his country has not at all encroached the Nepali territory.

Ordinary people and political critics have expressed their utter discontent at the appointment of Madhav Kumar Nepal as Nepal's prime minister, who was defeated in both of his constituencies in the 10-April 2008 Constituent Assembly elections.

Nepal government has neither officially nor informally yet asked the Indian government to withdraw from Nepal's territory.

<https://www.groundreport.com/indian-ssb-involved-in-kidnapping-and-raping-hundreds-of-nepali-women/>

Indian SSB involved in kidnapping and raping hundreds of Nepali women

Jun 3, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Media reports in Kathmandu confirm on Wednesday that the Indian paramilitary force SSB was in an organized way involved in displacing the Nepalis from the villages bordering India. About 2000 Nepalis from seven villages in the Dang district were reported chased away by the SSB.

Some victims seeking shelter in Satbariya community forest of Dang painfully disclosed the fact that the Indian force SSB members have frequently kidnapped Nepali girls and raped them. They said that the SSB men would kidnap many of the girls and disappear them for sexual purposes. In so many cases, they kept the kidnapped Nepali girls under their gun control for many weeks. The victims were reported extremely nervous and frightened. They admitted that so far hundreds of girls, who went to jungle for their domestic animals' fodder tolerated frequent rapes for fear of losing their lives.

Villagers also said that many girls kidnapped by the SSB men have disappeared for ever. They were extremely hopeless regarding any relief and rescue by the Nepal government.

Meanwhile Maoist-related students spontaneously took out to the streets of Kathmandu protesting against the injustice committed by the Indian paramilitary troops. They said that all political forces must unite to safeguard Nepal's national sovereignty and independence.

However, some leaders of the Nepali Congress and the UML told media that there was no Indian interference. Most of the Nepalis have accused them of becoming puppet rulers of India.

So far, Nepali media archives confirm that India has forcefully captured more than 60,000 hectares of Nepal's land.

One anti-border encroachment activist from Nepal Sadhya Bahadur Bhandari told media that India is encroaching Nepal's border not for little land but for capturing and making Nepal a Himalayan province under India.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-royal-massacre-enters-ninth-year-regressive-minds-sustain/>

Nepal's royal massacre enters ninth year; regressive minds sustain

Jun 2, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Today (according to the Nepali calendar) is the ninth year of the Narayanhiti royal massacre, an incident deeply lodged in the permanent neurological memory system among the Nepalis. King Birendra and his entire family were wiped away in the massacre on 01 June 2001. King Birendra's younger brother Gyanendra immediately became a new king, who harshly and autocratically ruled Nepal for four years.

No independent investigation on the massacre has yet been carried out. No slaughterers have ever been arrested and punished regarding the massacre. This impunity has put people at unease. They do not feel safe because they think that even the most heavily guarded royal family members were not safe within their family circle.

When Gyanendra, with the help of India and America, promised that Nepal would fight to finish all Maoists, millions of Nepalis in April 2006 stormed into the streets across the country seeking the immediate abolition of monarchy. The king imposed harsh autocracy on people, banning all political parties, detaining their leaders, cutting off all communication systems and massacring people in the name of 'terrorists'.

The massive protests defying 19-day military curfews throughout Nepal really proved that the Nepalis were in a do-or-die battle with the feudal systems.

Maoists were instrumental in declaring Nepal a republic. They were involved in armed insurgency against the monarchist parliamentary system that did not bother about the working class people. Their decade-long war spread political consciousness, though still inadequate, among the grassroots people. The Nepalis in 10 years learnt what they had not learnt for more than 40 years. But this has become more of a theoretical learning rather than practical. For practices, they have to draft a new constitution and define themselves in a new way, to become different from the existing corrupt and defunct bureaucratic mechanisms.

People fear that political parties might not let them practice democracy as most of them have aligned with the Army Chief who directly defied the elected civilian government. Ceremonial President and Nepali Congress worker Dr. Ram Baran Yadav challenged the executive power of the elected prime minister by re-appointing the Army Chief sacked by the government. But the president has not quoted any constitutional Article or Clause for doing this. And the obvious truth is that the ceremonial president does not have any right to re-appoint a sacked government official by autocratically sending a personal letter.

However, for this or that reason, most of the political parties (most of them with one seat in the legislative) have aligned with the Army Chief, long-brainwashed by the 240-year monarchy, abolished constitutionally by people just on 28 May 2008.

This raises a serious question. Does it mean that monarchy has quit the palace but not the minds of those political parties? Let people seek answers from their coming behavior.

But there is no doubt that the majority of grassroots people know that they need to go for progressive changes, not for regressive repetitions and repentances. The ninth year of the royal massacre must really make people and leaders alike think seriously what consequences the country may have to face in the future should impunity rule the society like this. It is more important to think today when dozens of armed groups have mushroomed up as killing industries in the country.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nonresidential-nepalis-prefer-executive-presidential-system-in-nepal/>

Nonresidential Nepalis prefer executive presidential system in Nepal

May 26, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepalis' overseas organization Non-Residential Nepalis (NRN) on Tuesday urged Nepal's political forces through the Constituent Assembly Chairperson Subhash Nemwang to adopt the executive presidential system in Nepal.

Handing over a letter with this request, Advisor of the organization Kul Chandra Gautam said that the executive presidential system in Nepal would be much better for the sake of Nepal's political stability.

Maoists, instrumental in mobilizing people against monarchy, have from the very beginning been demanding for the executive presidential system like in the United States of America. However, other major political parties, namely, the Nepali Congress and the UML, have stood for ceremonial presidential system.

The current ceremonial President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav re-appointed Army Chief Rookmangud Katwal who was sacked by the elected government headed by Maoist Supremo Prachanda, who resigned after all of the coalition partners in his government aligned with pro-Indian forces.

Ordinary Nepalis, who have learnt from their decades of experiences, strongly believe that no ceremonial head of state will ever remain ceremonial. They have a thirst for using active power. Therefore, better would be to adopt the executive presidential system in place of the existing Westminsterian parliamentary system.

<https://www.groundreport.com/india-encroaches-nepals-territory-destroys-264-pillars/>

India encroaches Nepal's territory: destroys 264 pillars

May 20, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

While Nepalis in Indo-Nepal border areas have been frequently complaining of border encroachment by India, the International Relations and Human Rights Committee (IRHRC) under Nepal's Legislative Parliament has found a serious level of border encroachment by India in Nepal's Bara district.

A field study headed by the Committee's Chairman and Constituent Assembly Member Nabindra Raj Joshi three days ago has revealed that India has encroached Nepal's border by destroying 264 border pillars out of 685.

The IRHRC Chairman Nabindra Raj Joshi informed reporters that India has also erected buildings in Nepal's territory.

Because Nepal's Maoists tried to resist direct Indian interference in appointing temple's priest and Army Chief, India has been openly exercising to re-consolidate in its favor the Nepal-based forces servile to it since long.

Nepalis' international lobbying for the sake of their national sovereignty and independence is extremely weak due to deep-seated servile character of various intellectual and political forces in the country.

Ordinary masses strongly believe that the chief political leaders of the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) are completely manipulated by Indian rulers.

<https://www.groundreport.com/ties-that-bind-nepal-india-and-china/>

Ties that bind: Nepal, India and China

May 12, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

The Times of India has published an editorial comment on Nepal's efforts to make Nepal-China relations more productive. Using diplomatic language, the editorial comment sees Nepali leaders' visit to China as their China-Card politics. The newspaper writes, "In a recent interview, Nepal's caretaker premier Prachanda suggested that India needn't lose sleep over a Nepal-China friendship treaty should it crystallise. Such an accord would have China recognise Nepal's territorial integrity; Nepal, in turn, would respect Beijing's sensitivities on Tibet."

The term 'China-Card' is a stereotyped one in the context of Nepal's peaceful and friendly stance in the global context. Nepal has never been a nuclear power. Nor has she adopted a partial and aggressive foreign policy. She has always stood for friendly relations with UN members. But the perception on the Indian side is more conservative and feudalistic. The hegemonistic attitude on the Indian side is apparent through the Indian media.

Nepal needs the help of both India and China. As a genuine neighbor, she cannot discriminate any of the two neighbors. But due to deep-seated traditions of Nepali leaders' depending on India for making political and national decisions, some serious problems in the perception of Indian authorities, media and artists are regularly seen. They are now trained to think that Nepal should not do anything without asking India.

This is the latest question the Nepalis are raising today. They want to break the tradition of slave politics. They want to relieve slave-minded leaders of their duties so that the Nepalis can also learn to be independent. So far, it has been quite difficult for us to learn to decide independently (e.g. the scandal of Pushupati priest appointment: Indian priest Vs Nepali priest).

The latest of such scandals is the issue of Nepal's Army Chief. Rakesh Sood (I wonder if he is really an ambassador because he shamelessly breaches all diplomatic etiquette) forced the President, Nepali Congress and the UML to side with the sacked Army Chief. He is understood to have threatened Nepal with Indian military intervention if the sacked Army Chief is not restored to his position. This is a serious question. Some may wonder why Nepali leaders have to

obey everything their Indian bosses tell them. It is a cancer. It is a clear symptom of psychological servitude. But Indian authorities create practical difficulties for which it is difficult to blame them directly. For example, the Nepalis, who defied former King Gyanendra's 19-day curfew rule, did also defy the call of Indian rulers to accept Gyanendra's offer for compromised government. This angered the Indian authorities. As soon as the Nepalis ended the direct royal regime, oil from India was stopped. The oil crisis, worsened by Nepal's crime-minded oil officials and dealers, continued until the 10-April Constituent Assembly poll in 2008.

Before and after the poll, Indian extremist Hindu parties have been instigating Nepali Hindu groups to raise arms against the republican forces. But the central government of India has ignored such deliberate barriers to Nepal's change process.

In the latest context, the Rayamajhi Probe Commission-blacklisted Army Chief, who even defied government orders several times, deserved the sacking. But there might be some sort of mystery behind the Indian pressure to maintain the sacked Chief.

It is not difficult to understand that an ideologically differing force, taking roots, has really worried India as to its way of regularly benefiting from the familiar political forces. It might have been difficult for India to create an appropriate rapport with Nepal's Maoists, who say they want to decide many things for Nepal without taking permission from India. When Maoists replace the familiar forces in Nepal or when they dominate the political scenario in the country, it may not be that easy for India to persuade them the same way they used to do. Perhaps because of this possibility, India exercises frequently to maintain its familiar forces in power in Nepal. Any such cause must not be the basis of destroying the neighbor's sovereignty.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-sacks-army-chief/>

Nepal government sacks army chief

May 3, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal government has decided to sack Army Chief Rukmangad Katuwal for defying the civilian government. Reports in Kathmandu say that Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda has formally informed President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.

Government-run Radio Nepal and Nepal Television informed the people that the government has appointed Kul Bahadur Khadga as the acting Army Chief in Katuwal's place.

However, Nepali Congress leaders have been openly urging the President to impose a Presidential rule (Emergency).

The Maoist-led coalition government has remained defunct for nine months due to vendetta political gambles within the government. Four other parties have aligned against the Maoists, who head the government.

Maoists, after having entered the mainstream peace process, emerged as the largest political party in Nepal through the 10-April Constituent Elections in 2008.

Other parties, including the Nepali Congress (now outside of the government) have aligned with the Army Chief saying that Maoists challenged the civilian supremacy. But Maoists have argued that they have tried to maintain civilian supremacy by sacking the Army Chief who disobeyed government orders.

<https://www.groundreport.com/political-parties-align-with-army-chief-in-nepal/>

Political parties align with army chief in Nepal

Apr 25, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal's Army Chief scandal has affected Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's schedule to visit People's Republic of China from 24 April to 3 May.

Maoist sources are reported to have warned Prime Minister Prachanda to stay home and remain psychologically prepared to provide emergency leadership if the current Chief of the Nepal Army Rukmangad Katuwal dares to organize a military coup with the support of CIA, RAW and some domestic political parties, viz., the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML). These parties have publicly instigated the Nepal Army to disobey the current coalition government headed by former rebels, the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM), as it has been renamed recently.

Earlier, the Maoist-led government had asked Army Chief Rukmangad Katuwal for an explanation letter on why he defied government and the Comprehensive Peace Treaty. The government also sought consensus for sacking the Chief, who was already blacklisted by the Rayamajhi Commission that revealed how the Chief violated human rights during former King Gyanendra's direct rule.

After the government questioned the Army Chief, former Prime Minister and Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala and his party leaders, and UML politburo as well as other central leaders objected to the government's step of questioning the Army Chief. They even said that the government, though elected, did not have any right to do so. Instead, they wanted the government to remain in the monarchical mode though the elected Constituent Assembly has already abolished monarchy.

US Ambassador to Nepal Nancy J. Powell and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Rakesh Sood have hundreds of times broken their diplomatic etiquette. They have done a similar thing on this Army

scandal. They have pressurized the Nepali Congress and the UML to oppose the government's decision on the Army Chief.

The general public have been questioning the democratic character of Nepal's 'democratic' parties. They have been found to have felt that some parties are trying to put the Army Chief above the government and the constitution.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between Maoist rebels and the Seven Party Alliance (SPA)—now this alliance does not exist—has envisioned that Maoists' People's Liberation Army (PLA), who fought to establish full-fledged democracy and republic under the leadership of the Maoist party, needed to be professionalized, and the state army needed to be democratized because it long worked for feudal monarchs.

The accord also specifies that Maoist PLA fighters need to be integrated into national security forces, rehabilitated and managed.

However, the NC and the UML have overtly and covertly stood against the army integration issue. Experts consider this army integration issue very complicated. It may, they think, even jeopardize the very peace process.

The country's major political gamblers need to be sensitive to their conflict management responsibilities.

<https://www.groundreport.com/arms-smugglers-seeking-to-initiate-civil-war-in-nepal/>

Arms smugglers seeking to initiate civil war in Nepal

Mar 19, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Media reports in Kathmandu say Nepal police on Wednesday seized a big quantity of sophisticated arms and ammunitions from a gang.

The police informed journalists on Wednesday night about the capture of short machine guns (SMG), UK-made guns with silencers, US-made pistols and Italian-made pistols with lots of magazines and ammunitions.

However, the number of weapons is not yet clear since some investigative journalists doubt some powerful arms smugglers are being protected by the level law application mechanisms.

A person, who was also seen in the protests called by anti-Maoist militant organization named Nepal Maoist-Victims Association (NMVA), on Tuesday had uttered in a group of people in Kathmandu that hundreds of political leaders and their subordinate cadres might be killed dramatically. However, he could not specify who would kill whom for what purposes.

At present, dozens of armed groups with no clear vision and ideology, have been terrorizing the Nepalis in the plains of Nepal. The coalition partners in the government and political parties been divided in Nepal.

It has been doubted that arms smugglers might be using the volatile situation of Nepal.

Indian criminals used by Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) for Indian causes have been doubted behind the arms smuggling into Nepal.

Should the intelligence and security forces of Nepal remain vulnerable to financial covets, dozens of well-networked armed criminal gangs may create bloodbath in Nepal, a volatile nation going through a complicated peace process.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepalis-will-defeat-efforts-to-restore-monarchy/>

Nepalis Will Defeat Efforts to Restore Monarchy

Mar 10, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

While a public rumour of restoring monarchy through a ‘baby king’ has spread in the Nepali political market, the Nepalis across the country have again begun to fear the heightening of political crisis in the country. Although they do not believe that any form of monarchy can be established in Nepal, they at least believe that the Nepalis will have to face a crisis worse than before. However, they will defeat efforts to restore monarchy

A 19-day civil nationwide uprising that completely defied the royal curfews pave the way for abolishing monarchy. It was formally abolished by the elected Constituent Assembly on 28 May 2009.

Nepalis have been openly expressing their apprehension over the simultaneous India-visit of former king Gyanendra, Nepali Congress leader Girija Prasad Koirala, UML leader KP Sharma Oli and Bamdev Gautam, and monarchist leader Surya Bahadur Thapa. They have suspected of an India role in misusing the volatile situation of Nepal.

UML leader K P Sharma Oli had been advocating for the immediate change of the current coalition government in which his own party is a chief partner. Nepali Congress leader Girija Prasad Koirala instructed his party supporters and workers to launch a decisive battle against the current government. Amidst such remarks by the leaders, the confidential meeting of the former king and other monarchist leaders in New Delhi in the name of health check-up has aroused much apprehension and curiosity in the Nepalis' minds.

Meanwhile, Maoists are also reported to have been holding consultations among their top leaders on the shaping crisis.

Nepali Congress and UML leaders had openly instigated the recruitment scandal in the Nepal Army. The recruitment of any new soldiers in the Nepal Army and in the People's Liberation Army would be a clear violation of the Comprehensive Peace Treaty signed on 22 November 2006. But leaders of the Nepali Congress, UML and monarchist parties publicly defended the violation. They were to some extent able to create a divide between the current government and the Nepal Army. This hidden and unwritten intention of leaders needs analysis.

After the peace process began in 2006 in Nepal, vendetta politics also began at the same time. As a result, more disbelief and hostility are growing among parties.

If a civil war is created in Nepal, traditional political parties and leaders are likely to vanish in Nepal.

<https://www.groundreport.com/buddhas-birthplace-misrepresented-nepals-area-reduced-by-world-encyclopedia/>

Buddha's birthplace misrepresented, Nepal's area reduced by world encyclopedia

Mar 5, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

D K Illustrated Family Encyclopedia published by Dorling Kindersley Limited, a Penguin company, has been found to have claimed that the Buddha was born in India. Ekraj Dahal, an English lecturer in Kathmandu, discovered this while going through some writing on Buddhism in the reference book. The 2005 edition of the book in page 151 states, "Buddhism is a world faith that has changed the lives of millions of people. It began in Sakya, a small kingdom in northeast India." In page 152, it restates, "The Buddhist faith was founded by an Indian nobleman called Gautam Siddhartha in the 6th century BC." Thus, the writers and editors of the reference book appear awfully negligent about the sovereignty of Nepal.

Historical evidences clearly prove that the Buddha was born in Kapilvastu of Lumbini zone of Nepal. At present the UNESCO and many Buddhist institutions of the world have been involved

in the promotion of Buddha's birthplace Lumbini Nepal) as an international center of tourism and Buddhism.

The same encyclopedia in page 115 has indicated Nepal's area as 140,800 Sq. Km., which is utterly wrong according to records available all over the world. Nepal's area is 147,181 Sq. Km. well recorded in all major international archives. If fair mapping is done depending on international laws and treaties, Nepal's territory is likely to grow more.

According to media reports, India has already captured more than 62,000 hectares of Nepal's territory in the border areas. original pillars set up in the Indo-Nepal border until the East India Company quit India have now been removed. India currently is reported to be working on establishing its satellite-drawn map, an artificial one to replace the original map.

However, Nepali rulers look puzzled over this. They will have to respond to people's question sooner or later.

Hundreds of Indian websites have been advocating that Gautam Buddha was born in India and that Kapilvastu was in Kapileswor. However, no international agencies have recognized this yet.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-political-parties-agree-to-launch-investigation-into-royal-massacre/>

Nepal's political parties agree to launch investigation into royal massacre

Feb 28, 2009 [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal's five parties in the coalition government have agreed to launch an investigation in to the royal carnage that took place in the Narayanhity royal palace on 01 June 2001 when all the family members of King Birendra were massacred within minutes. Birendra's younger brother Gyanendra declared himself king after the tragedy.

While the entire family members of Birendra were wiped out in a weekly family dinner party, Gyanendra's wife and son, also present there, survived. The Nepalis have ever since taken it as a mystery to be unfolded accurately.

Immediately reacting on the incident, Gyanendra said that it happened due to a gun accident, he later changed his version and blamed the then Prince Dipendra for the incident. Palace sources were quoted by media as saying that Dipendra killed himself after he massacred all of them. However, the Nepalis have always demanded a serious and independent investigation on the case in order to prevent any future crimes of the scale.

Former King Gyanendra is in India now when the parties have expressed their commitment to investigate into the massacre.

Monarchy in Nepal was abolished on 28 May 2008 after the election of the Constituent Assembly on 10 April of the same year.

Nepalis had given their street verdict to abolish monarchy by storming into streets across the country by defying army curfews continuously for 19 days in April 2006.

<https://www.groundreport.com/parliamentary-reporting-training-reveals-nepals-poor-status/>

Parliamentary reporting training reveals Nepal's poor status

Feb 28, 2009 | [Media & Tech](#), [US](#)

Participants of parliamentary reporting training on Saturday revealed that Nepal's parliamentary reporting is in a pitiable condition. At a concluding program of a short-term parliamentary reporting training, they unfolded their grievances that neither the legislative nor the government has yet realized the significance of parliamentary reporting in the democratic age.

At a closing program facilitated in Kathmandu by Nepal Press Institute, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and Media and Democracy, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly (CA) and the current Legislative Parliament expressed his belief that the training would contribute to the mission of drafting a new constitution, so vital for the ongoing peace process to reach a logical end. He urged parliamentary reporters to expose the Legislative-Parliament's drawbacks for correction purposes.

Speaking at the program, Vice-Chairperson of the Legislative-Parliament Purna Kumari Subedi urged journalists to play a conscious role in making Nepal's peace process a success, especially in bringing about people-desired changes.

Chairman of Freedom Forum, a media NGO, Taranath Dahal expressed his dissatisfaction at the state's negligence of parliamentary reporters. He expressed his bitter experience that journalists are controlled within the House.

Different journalists, who participated in the training, said that they learnt new things in the training.

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-mission-chief-martin-urges-nepal-government-to-accelerate-army-integration-process/>

UN mission Chief Martin urges Nepal government to accelerate army integration process

Feb 1, 2009 [Politics](#), [World](#)

While the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) have been obstructing the process of army integration by defending the violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and Maoist rebels on 22 November 2006, outgoing Chief of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) Ian Martin urged Nepal government to accelerate the process of army integration for not letting Nepal's process derail at any cost.

Especially, the NC has repeatedly and publicly vowed not to let the army integration take place. The peace agreement contains this integration component.

At a time when the NC and the UML have been instigating Nepal Army to violate the peace agreement, Martin made this request on Sunday morning when he met with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda at his official residence in Kathmandu.

According to Prime Minister Prachanda's foreign affairs advisor Hira Bahadur Thapa, Prime Minister Prachanda is understood to have assured Martin that things would go ahead smoothly should the major political forces of the country honestly respect the Nepalis' aspirations for peace with transformative opportunities.

Prime Minister Prachanda is also learnt to have told Martin that if major forces in the country in this or that pretext cannot accept people's desire to have vast changes would not contribute to the peace process.

European Union ambassadors had met with the prime minister on Saturday to learn about the worsening condition of the peace process due to disputes between "progressives" and "regressives".

<https://www.groundreport.com/european-union-ambassadors-advise-nepals-prime-minister-to-manage-army-recruitment-disputes/>

European Union ambassadors advise Nepal's prime minister to manage army recruitment disputes

Jan 31, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

European Union ambassadors based in Kathmandu have advised Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda to make coordinated efforts to manage the disputes that have arisen regarding the army recruitment.

Ambassadors from England, German, Finland and some other EU member nations visited the prime minister on Saturday morning at the prime minister's official residence at Baluwatar in Kathmandu and put their concern over the possible threat to Nepal's ongoing peace process due to the latest army-government contradiction.

The EU ambassadors gave this piece of advice to Prime Minister Prachanda as Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) Chief Pasang warned on Friday that should the government army continue with its recruitment, which he says is against the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 22 November 2006, the PLA would also do the same thing.

Prime Minister Prachanda is the Chairman of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM) that led a decade long armed insurgency to abolish monarchist systems in the country.

Following the 10-April 2008 Constituent Assembly election, the UCPNM emerged as the largest political party, now leading the current coalition government.

<https://www.groundreport.com/most-wanted-man-released-without-any-interrogation-in-nepal/>

Most wanted man released without any interrogation in Nepal

Jan 22, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Baban Singh, whom the Nepali police had registered in the most wanted list for his leadership in massacring 28 civilians at Gaur in Rautahat district on 21 March 2007, has escaped legal actions because of the veto that he obtained out of his position as the independent Constituent Assembly (CA) member.

Singh was elected the CA member through the CA poll held on 10 April 2008. The Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF), the Terai Madhesh Democratic Party (TMDP), and the Nepali

Congress (NC) had indirectly supported him and had campaigned to persuade the district's illiterate masses to vote for him saying that people could live safely if he was elected. The main motive behind these rightist parties' campaign for Singh was that they wanted to use Baban Singh as a tool against progressive forces in the district.

Singh's family members and his relatives had gone door-to-door and asked for an opportunity to save Baban Singh whose innocence they advocated. Although He was underground at the time of the election, he won the election with the indirect campaign of mainly the three parties.

However, the Nepali police had been searching for him. Nepali security officials had admitted that Baban Singh was also found involved in the Kathmandu Bomb blasts that killed three civilians in the same year.

When the Election Commission asked Baban Singh to collect his CA member's certificate after being, he hesitated to immediately come to Nepal from Bihar. However, when the major parties that supported him assured him of full freedom and impunity, he came to Nepal.

Most surprisingly, the people who voted for him in Rautahat district knew only very late from the mainstream mass media that the Nepali police had been trying to arrest him.

Middle class people in Kathmandu believe that it was not possible for security authorities to remain uninformed about who Baban Singh was and how he was elected. Yet they must have deliberately let him free because of some kind of veto power used in favor of him.

After widespread criticism from ordinary people that the government was keeping a warranted suspect by paying him heavily, Birgunj police arrested him on January 18 to show that the police did their duty. He was not arrested for his alleged involvement in Gaur carnage and Kathmandu blasts. He was arrested there for his alleged involvement in the murder of two businessmen in Birgunj. However, police officials say that the government as well as the court did not allow them to extend his custody days for further investigation. He has been released now after three days' detention. People believe it was pre-arranged.

Additional information from sources based in Gaur is coming in. Baban Singh is also affiliated to the Terai Army that took responsibility for the Kathmandu blasts in 2007. Besides, some villagers even admitted that they would feel safe if Baban Singh could be made a respectable man comfortably living in Kathmandu because previously he was also involved in leading robbery gangs composed of both Bihari and Nepali robbers.

With this type of impunity to an apparent suspect whom the country's police put in the most wanted list, more criminals are likely to become MPs and ministers in Nepal in the near future.

The accelerating criminalization of the political sector in Nepal will further heighten conflicts and violence in the country.

Almost all the political parties in Nepal have adopted violence as a compulsory method of practicing politics so far. There is not a single day without confrontations and violence in the name of this or that political ideology.

<https://www.groundreport.com/dump-it-nepal-faces-garbage-politics/>

Dump It: Nepal Faces Garbage Politics

Jan 21, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Kathmandu Metropolis has seen many piles of garbage for about three weeks. After Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) and Nepali Congress (NC) workers and supporters blocked garbage trucks on the way to their dumping site located in a district adjacent to Kathmandu, garbage has piled up in many places of the city.

For about 50 years, Nepal's government has not been able to manage garbage in a scientific manner. The Kathmandu Metropolis assigned with removing the garbage seeks a temporary dumping site and uses it until trucks are blocked by protesters. This has been a customary business with no new policies and changes.

Villagers nearby the disposal site always complain that the government uses such areas without implementing compensation commitments. However, metropolis authorities say political activists always violate the previous agreements for the sake of opposition politics.

As the government has not had any long-term strategy to manage garbage, inter-prohibiting political parties, who prefer to impose their own party rule in the name of democracy, use garbage as a tool of petty politics.

Sources from Okharpauwa village close to the dumping site, local activists of political parties are indulged in garbage politics through which they compete to profit economically. According to the sources, garbage piles up in Kathmandu while they are involved in garbage politics. It is believed that their parties, too, are politically motivated to defame one another under this garbage politics.

The Nepalis, divided terribly by self-centered political parties, are always tired of the garbage-like politics of the country. They find political leaders extremely shaky in a political sense.

After the Maoists formally entered the mainstream peace process in November 2006 by signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), people had hoped that Nepal would see vast changes in every sector after a new inclusive constitution would be drafted. But the major political parties themselves have now little heeded the constitution-writing assignment given by the Nepalis, who elected the Constituent Assembly on 10 April 2008 for the purpose.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-barack-you-decide-whether-to-be-different/>

Nepal: Barack, You Decide Whether to be Different

Jan 20, 2009 | [US](#), [World](#)

Barack Obama, though he is not generally considered different from other presidents of the United States in terms of the US foreign policy and its militarist attitude in the global political fields, could be a distinct figure in the world history if he could be as bold as Mikhail Gorbachev, who dared to admit to the truth. What the world other than the United States hopes from Barack Obama is the honest US role for world peace and dignity of other nations.

Do other nations have a right to enjoy dignity or not? Do they have a right to remain independent and sovereign? Can other nations, especially the developing countries such as Nepal and Afghanistan, have a right to pursue the universally claimed democracy and economy independently? These are only a few questions that Barack Obama could ponder over in order to become an internationally deserving leader.

The world is already tired of bullying politics and anti-humanity belligerence wantonly supported by the overflow of money and technology. Now the world requires a world-friendly US president. Can Obama compete for the purpose?

However, Obama definitely does have his right to remain a solely US president confined to US and Israeli interests. He can be an ultra-traditionalist if he wishes.

Let him decide the way he likes!

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-media-and-grassroots-agenda/>

Nepali media and grassroots agenda

Jan 15, 2009 | [Media & Tech](#), [World](#)

The Nepali mass media have played a great role in countering the partyless and autocratic regimes. During the direct monarchical regime in 2006, they catalyzed people's minds towards the mass movement. No one can forget this historically significant role in the country's democratic movement.

Even during the partyless Panchayat regime, underground publications engaged in mission journalism fearlessly resisted various suppressive moves of the concerned regime.

As far as the universally accepted democratic principles are concerned, the mass media have always defended the norms and values of democracy and human rights. In the post-1990 period, they have enjoyed a greater degree of freedom to advocate for market economy and human rights. While the number of print and electronic media has been going up in the latest years, most of the working class people have felt that the mass media have emphasized on the elitist and business interests. In this context, grassroots agenda face an overshadow. Such a feeling of the working class people cannot be ignored when we worship press freedom for a genuine democracy.

The current nonpartisan observation of the Nepali mass media implies that they have with undiminished commitment advocated for the broader ideals of democracy while they have maintained their untransformed mindset as far as selection, processing and presentation of their contents are concerned.

The Nepali mass media must now dare to divorce with the previous ruling elites, who marginalized and excluded the grassroots communities. Since the April uprising of 2006 has sent shockwaves to the world by politically storming out those medieval forces, it is not necessary for the Nepali mass media to defend them anymore.

As the Constituent Assembly elected on 10 April 2008 adopts multi-ideological and multi-ethnic principles, the media cannot satisfy people with a merely traditional role.

Every sector requires transformation in Nepal. So do the Nepali mass media. Only the psychologically transformed media can accelerate the process of political, socio-economic and religious-cultural transformation. Nepal can really enjoy all-round transformation if the mass media can combine their growing technological transformation with people's transformative aspirations.

People are the transformative university capable of educating the mass media information players. The information players, to develop a transformative attitude, must have genuine interest learning from the lives of the grassroots people. However, media forces traditionally trained in aligning with the prevalent forces cannot jump up to a new level at one stroke. Pro-grassroots agenda forces need to exercise continuously to remold the mass media m mindset for transformative purposes.

It is true that the grassroots agenda have not found a major space in the mass media. What is equally true is that the Nepali mass media generally have not been defined or categorized the grassroots agenda. Therefore, some elaboration of the grassroots agenda is necessary.

Grassroots agenda mainly refer to the majority's sufferings. Prosperous and powerful people benefit from mass sufferings. The mass media will be able to shift to a transformative role if they can reach the depth of such mass sufferings.

More than 90 percent of the Nepalis live in more than 3,900 villages. Although the April uprising of 2006 has politically ousted the medieval rulers, their corrupt mechanisms have continued to spread metastatic infections, affecting even the newer leaderships in the country.

Corruption has become an all-pervasive cancer in Nepal. The most corrupt ones have become the most respected forces while honest, principled and hardworking citizens have lived a torturous life. Even those jailed because of corruption scandals have remained powerful political leaders. Even office assistants working in the customs and revenue offices have become billionaires through huge corruption. State mechanisms assigned with the responsibility of investigation and punishment remain almost defunct because of the same metastatic effect.

In essence, systemlessness has been institutionalized in Nepal. In fact, corruption-minded forces have been reinforcing corruption culture as a national value under the umbrella of systemlessness. Those trying to lead the country through a transformative path really face the toughest challenge.

Even the international donors and their representative institutions in Nepal appear unclear about their Nepal policy. They have already squandered billions in the name of Nepal's development. They have bothered little about the output for the suffering masses in Nepal. Knowingly or unknowingly, they have nurtured corrupt leaderships that have supported their impositions. We do not know if the international donors helping Nepal have calculated otherwise.

But the international community is not to blame in this context because they basically depend on the input provided by Nepal's mainstream intellectual community.

The country's intellectual community and the mass media have interdependent relationships. They feed each other with input. It is mainly up to them to go deeper into the grassroots agenda of the country.

Prejudiced mentality among media professionals and their owners will harm the country and further endanger the current peace process. Media critics and analysts should guide media professionals towards changes and grassroots agenda.

<https://www.groundreport.com/knowledge-elites-distort-their-mentality-in-nepal/>

Knowledge elites distort their mentality in Nepal

Jan 15, 2009 | [Opinion](#), [World](#)

The Nepalis entered the phase of federal democratic republic after the formal abolition of the 240-year monarchy founded on feudal identities and thought patterns.

However, all progressive scholars agree that the Nepalis have not yet got rid of feudalism despite the abolition of monarchy because monarchy was only a major generalized symbol of feudalism while deep-rooted feudal mechanisms still rule Nepal.

After the constitutional implementation of republic backed by the people, those well-trained in feudal thought patterns find it extremely painful. They are trying to use communal and religious tools to create disruptions during the volatile period of historical transition.

When the then king Gyanendra sidelined the major political forces such as the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML)—don't worry about the banner 'Marxist-Leninist,' one can remain loyal to extremist market economy—both the NC and the UML opted to benefit from the Maoist rebels—nobody knows what the exact meaning of Maoism is—who intended to end monarchy. Although it was not at all the policy of the NC and the UML (this 'communist' party had even collaborated with the then king Gyanendra against those demanding the restoration of democratic rights) to eliminate the monarchy, they happened to collaborate with Maoist rebels for the time being because these then-monarchist parties had been isolated from rural masses due to the decade-long armed insurgency. Both the NC and the UML had never imagined that their collaboration with the armed insurgents would mean something else—to let them lead Nepal today.

What and how the NC and UML top leaders say and do today clearly demonstrates their mental trauma created by the 10-April 2008 Constituent Assembly elections in which the Maoist rebels emerged as the largest political force, once marked by the recently dismissed king Gyanendra as 'some misled criminals.'

Traumatic effects can be found also among some elite-oriented mass media, who, indeed, had played an important role in mobilizing people against the monarchy that invaded their houses during the royal coup period. The psychological foundations of the mass media owners, in general, require transformation should they genuinely desire to align with the movement of the proposed New Nepal—constitutional formulation is yet to commence for the purpose.

The psychological foundations of the mass media owners in Nepal definitely run counter to the aspirations of the majority of the working class people—mostly illiterate and cut off from digital communications. Public journalism perspectives are yet to be adopted. Mass exploitation, social oppression and injustices have not become major agenda. Assuming a transformative character after the abolition of monarchy has become quite a big challenge for the Nepali mass media. However, they have knowledge elites in their store. Such knowledge elites are differently schooled, especially in the marketing principles developed by multinational corporations.

Working class issues, especially labor issues—so vital for the economic advancement of the country—find scanty space in the Nepali mass media. Leaders' frequently reiterated expressions find the main space while newness is a big want.

It not surprising that knowledge elites, who prefer to maintain their existing status as something 'elite,' exercise to counter big changes likely to serve the working class people.

However, what is timely advisable for such knowledge elites is that they had better try to transform themselves to suit to the majority concerns by abandoning their white lies and reality-distorting habits.

In a nutshell, a distorted mentality cannot see the exact picture of the society.

<https://www.groundreport.com/people-rejected-leader-made-chief-of-constitution-drafting-committee-in-nepal/>

People-rejected leader made chief of constitution-drafting committee in Nepal

Jan 13, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Former General Secretary of the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) Madhav Kumar Nepal, defeated in the Constituent Assembly poll held on 10 January 2008 in Kathmandu and his home district Rautahat, was lucky enough to become the Chairman of Constitutional Committee in the Constituent Assembly.

While the UML had been threatening to withdraw from the coalition government led by the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist), Maoist leaders forwarded UML leader Nepal as the candidate for the post of the Chairman of the Constitutional Committee formed to draft the new constitution.

Analysts are puzzled over how a leader democratically rejected by the people has been forcefully brought forward.

Madhav Nepal, who remains almost four months in India and Europe every year, is believed to have been used for dividing Nepal's working class forces.

Maoist leaders claim Madhav Nepal can be useful for the peace process. However, current UML General Secretary Jhala Nath Khanal, who formed his combat force Youth Force, has called on his party cadres to continue confronting Maoists until they surrender totally.

Ordinary people have expressed disgust at people-unfriendly politics in Nepal. The election of the Constituent Assembly was held in April last year to choose representatives for drafting a new constitution.

People appear confused over why someone who served feudal monarchy and has been advocating for foreign interests has been made the chief of the constitution-making committee.

<https://www.groundreport.com/female-journalist-uma-singh-murdered-in-nepal/>

Female Journalist Uma Singh Murdered in Nepal

Jan 12, 2009 | [Media & Tech](#), [Politics](#)

Unidentified armed forces have killed Uma Singh, a 24-year-old female journalist working for a local radio station in Janakpur, Terai district of Nepal. She was stabbed to death in her home in Sarlahi, 90 miles south of Kathmandu, on Sunday evening.

According to Radio Netherlands Worldwide, the Editor in Chief of Singh's newspapers said was killed for criticizing local politicians and the traditional dowry system.

Demonstrations mourning her death have taken place in Mahottari, Sarlahi, Sindhuli, Siraha and Saptari districts. In Bara, journalists-at-work have wrapped black bands around their wrists in protest.

Reports say armed groups have also threatened the life of another journalist, Manika Jha in Janakpur.

<https://www.groundreport.com/victims-are-further-victimized-in-nepal/>

Victims are further victimized in Nepal

Jan 5, 2009 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepali police often ignore many incidents of injustice and oppression against the Dalit community stigmatized as 'untouchables'. After King Mahendra legally banned the social practice of caste untouchability in 1965, the state was able to claim that Nepal officially

recognizes the Dalits as human beings. However, the Dalits have not yet achieved a human status even after 44 years of the legal ban on this inhuman practice.

So-called high caste people treat Dalits as ‘animals’ even in the 21st century characterized by globalization and cyber connectivity. This racism more or less exists throughout Nepal. Almost five million Nepali Dalits today live a life far worse than the African blacks did during the apartheid period in South Africa.

When so-called high caste people beat or torture Dalits, the victims cannot but expect more misbehavior and torture not only by the concerned oppressors but also by the police mechanisms set up for the equal protection of citizens.

As the state in Nepal has not been able to protect Dalits by legally punishing oppressors, Dalits generally tend not to report their cases. If they report their cases, they face further suppression by their oppressors backed up by state apparatuses.

Political forces, for their own causes, use the Dalits as mere tools.

While the major political parties and cabinet members have been tirelessly trumpeting about human rights, equality and inclusive democracy, local police in Kathmandu has felt proud of being successful in dismissing an information report about a murder attempt.

Krishna Mijar, a local resident of Matatirtha village in Kathmandu district was coming back home from one of his relatives in Lalitpur on the evening of December 18. His neighbor Bhairab Pant and his youngest son Yekdiswor Pant at about 19:30 assaulted Krishna so terribly that he had to be rushed to hospital.

Krishna’s wife and a few of her neighbors took Krishna to the government-run Bir Hospital in Kathmandu. Bir Hospital sent Krishna back home by administering only some painkiller.

Krishna complained of severe and persistent pain throughout the night. On the next morning (December 19) Krishna’s wife and her relatives took him to Kathmandu Model Hospital that referred him on December 20 to Kathmandu Medical College Teaching Hospital for intensive treatment.

The ultrasonography of the painful side in the victim’s body showed a splenic rupture and blood clots. Doctors recommended the splenectomy.

The proposed surgery was performed on Krishna on December 22. After an 11-day hospitalization, the hospital discharged him. According to Krishna, the victim, the sudden physical assault on him by his neighbor Bhairab Pant was an apparent murder attempt. His wife Dhana Mijar tried to file a case with police with a hope of taking action against the oppressor. But the police stations at Matatirtha and at Balambu refused to accept such a report. They instead forced both Krishna and his wife to remain satisfied with a few thousand rupees that the oppressor paid due to the pressure by other neighbors sympathizing with the victim.

Villagers directly named one police assistant called Rudra Bhusal as someone protecting the oppressor. They suspect the police assistant for some sort of unethical compromise with the oppressor. Earlier, Bhusal ‘discouraged’ victim’s wife while she sought justice with the help of police, villagers say.

Krishna, a freelance worker, now fears that he may not be able to earn his bread due to the possible after-effects of the surgical removal of his spleen from the body.

“We are poor and don’t have links to power. So, what can we do now?” Krishna’s wife Dhana wonders.

Police Sub-Inspector at Balambu Police Station Surya Prasad Acharya feels proud when he was able to make victim Krishna and his oppressor Bhairab sign in a tolerance document. Amidst Krishna’s few neighbors who gathered in the courtyard of Balambu Police Station, Acharya says, “From now on, both of you don’t fight. You should live harmoniously.” He meant that it was the case of physical battle. He did not want to accept the truth that Krishna was the victim of the sudden one-sided assault intended to murder or injure him for life.

Krishna, who lost his body’s internal organ, sighed deeply with a psychological torture beyond description while oppressor Bhairab Pant felt triumphant as he was neither arrested for legal actions nor made to compensate for the loss that Krishna had to bear.

Earlier, oppressor Bhairab Pant refused to take any responsibility for the assault though he admittedly even went to hospital and paid some treatment expenses. While Pant was refusing to sign in any document that would make him compensate or face any punishment, police assistants were assuring him of full relief.

The justice seekers were more demoralized and humiliated after the police mechanism took such a murder attempt in a kidding and irresponsible manner.

Thus, Nepal appears thousands of miles behind in the context of justice to victims. State mechanisms have so far maintained their tendency of further victimizing victims. This strongly protected tendency cannot but institutionalize the culture of impunity that aggravates the pre-existing man-eat-man culture.

<https://www.groundreport.com/public-road-captured-in-kathmandu/>

PUBLIC ROAD CAPTURED IN KATHMANDU

nov 28, 2009 | politics, world

Nepal-based Yamaha dealers and other business companies have on Saturday captured the public road at Durbar Marg in Kathmandu Metropolis.

All vehicles were banned in the pivotal spot of Kathmandu. The road was blocked even for those who wanted to walk through. Big musical concert stages were set as road barriers.

About 500 well-armed security personnel were deployed to protect the organizers of the street festival.

A musical concert tailored to teenage emotions was organized to gather crowds of school-goers on the weekly day-off.

No political parties or any 'pro-public' pressure groups have yet objected to this privatization of the public road.

Some police personnel in the street told this reporter that it was not logical to organize such a commercial program by banning people to use the road for their destination. One of them, however, added, "What to do, we have to obey the command from above. Higher authority had to think about the pain caused to public."

A woman carrying a three-year child on her back said, "I don't understand if it's democracy. Who gave them (organizers?) authority to make this road their private property?"

A well-clad businessman, who identified himself as Niresh Man Pradhan, expressed his pleasure at this street festival. While having hamburger with his two children at the festival spot, he said, "It is the life of city. No objection to the street festival."

However, an angry youth uttered, "It is illegal to capture the road for private and commercial purposes. It means there is no state power at all in Nepal."

From human rights point of view, no such program can be organized in the middle of the public road even with the permission from the government. It, therefore, is automatically understood that the 'government' has allowed the organizers to do so. Besides, the government has also proved its knowledge about the program by deploying 500 security personnel at the spot.

<https://www.groundreport.com/maoist-supremos-political-exploration-in-singapore/>

MAOIST SUPREMO'S POLITICAL EXPLORATION IN SINGAPORE

nov 16, 2009 | opinion, world

Nepal's Maoist Supremo and former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda left Kathmandu on Monday for Singapore for political exploration regarding the country's current political stagnation. Nepal faces the toughest challenges that originated from the sharpened conflict between those in favor of the overall transformation of the Nepali society and those engaged in the final struggles to preserve the status quo.

Prachanda said publicly that he wanted to see his supporters and well-wishers in Singapore.

Former Prime Minister and Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala is undergoing a medical treatment in Singapore for his respiratory complications. Prachanda said he would meet him too.

Besides, Prachanda is expected to meet an Indian professor, S D Muni based in a Singaporean university.

Some say Prachanda went to Singapore after Professor Sukh Deo Muni, with longstanding relationship with some senior Maoist leaders in Nepal, has talked to Koirala in hospital.

If Prachanda, at the call of S D Muni, has gone to Singapore for political conversations with Koirala or anybody else, this will undermine his political dignity and the collective spirit of the Marxist principle, which his party wants to adhere to.

BAN KI-MOON'S MESSAGE IS NO INTERFERENCE: PRACHANDA

nov 11, 2009 | politics, world

The Chairman of the Integrated Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPNM) Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda on Thursday said that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's advice that Nepal should have a consensus government to take the ongoing peace process to a logical end was not a sign of interference. Prachanda told media that Ban spoke in favor of the peace process.

Prachanda told the media, "This government has no capacity or goodwill to understand the Secretary-General's message. It sees peace process-friendly advice as interference while it brokers for those directly interfering in against the peace process."

Prachanda expressed his belief that Ban gave this message to make the Nepalis watchful against attempts to derail the peace process.

Prachanda, along with his party colleagues, is participating in the anti-government gherao rally.

The party did organize the gherao program as part of its pro-civilian supremacy movement targeted at the correction of presidential coup due to which Prachanda resigned his prime ministership.

Hundreds of thousands of people are seen in the streets of Kathmandu. Many film actors and actresses as well as poets and poetesses have also taken party in the gherao rallies organized by the Maoist party.

<https://www.groundreport.com/sovereignty-crisis-in-south-asia/>

SOVEREIGNTY CRISIS IN SOUTH ASIA

oct 30, 2009 | opinion, politics

While the US Administration has been assuring Pakistan of full help in countering extremist Muslim fighters, especially suicidal Taliban and Al Qaeda, Pakistan is not only indulged in home-grown wars but also foreign-propelled military experiments and gambles. This is extremely unfortunate as regards global peace as well as the particular issue of peace in South Asia.

It has now become much clearer over some years that the US Administration wishes to fulfill its needs by enabling India as the Chief in South Asia and by employing Pakistan to fight US foes in Afghanistan and Pakistan itself. The US Administration is already clear that Muslim fundamentalists in Pakistan will in no way be a help to Americans. They are also aware that by mobilizing Pakistani establishments against Muslim fundamentalists, they will face more threats and attacks on US interests in the future. However, the US ruling elites are making maximum use of Pakistani ruling elites for the time being. This sounds practically important at present, but it will harm not only Pakistan but the whole South Asian region in the long-term.

The crux of the matter is not to make South Asia an American military station but an independent, peaceful and democratic junction. The current situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan does not suggest so.

Pakistani military elites in democratic disguises often worry about the preservation of their ruling privileges—this is an attitude similar to that of Nepali rulers who resist progressive changes following every people's democratic movement. The factor of Pakistan's non-democratization of politics has substantially contributed to the militarization and foreignization of regime. This does not sound wholesome for the whole South Asian community.

Pakistani rulers—like Nepali rulers—do not appear to have relied on their own grassroots people for managing their political and socio-economic issues. They rely heavily on foreign forces for preserving their traditional ruling privileges. The non-transformation of people's lives is the chief cause for the widening gulf between the rulers and the people. This situation applies to both Pakistan and Nepal—a truth undeniable in South Asia as a whole.

The more rulers depend on their own people, the more democratic they can become. The more democratic they become, the nearer they can get to people. This will prevent foreign forces from directly interfering in their home affairs. But the current situation in Pakistan is just the opposite. Although the Pakistani intellectual community revolving around the power whirlwinds may not accept this truth, this is the reality their country faces. In the name of help, they have institutionalized US interference. American military players have apparently penetrated into Pakistani military hearts. This will no doubt affect long-term Pakistani defense strategies. In this context, no powerful lobbying can be seen in favor of the need for Pakistanis themselves to take initiatives in their own hands.

To take initiatives in their own hands, Pakistanis, first of all, need to democratize home politics. A strong lobbying campaign for de-militarizing the home politics is essential. Reaching grassroots population with the burning agenda of political and socio-economic transformation can be the launching pad for seeking home-grown politics. At present, extremists are benefiting from the untransformed mindset and practices. Once politics becomes people's affairs of equality, freedom and brotherhood, no foreign forces can get the opportunity for interference. Foreign forces seek loopholes to interfere in. Such loopholes may include power-mongering and self-centered political gambles, fundamentalism, casteism, monolithic structures, and suppression of human rights, socio-economic disparity and similar factors.

Pakistanis must never forget that the US Administration has had long-term interests in South Asia. They want to establish India as the most reliable and permanent collaborator in the region. They have signed a nuclear treaty with

India for nuclear cooperation. What is equally true is the fact that they will definitely abandon Pakistan after they meet their specific targets.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, talking to Pakistan's daily newspaper the Dawn on Wednesday, had indicated that Pakistan is totally dependent on US intelligence services for carrying out military operations against extremist troublemakers. She had appreciated Pakistan's obedience towards the US Administration working in the Pakistani ground. This is an interesting topic to discuss in modern political science, especially from sovereignty perspective.

It is natural for Pakistani rulers to welcome and accept US hegemony in the name of countering violence. But it is unnatural for them to create a favorable environment for the US Administration to interfere with other South Asian neighbors' internal affairs. Both Indian and Pakistani rulers have helped to institutionalize US interference in South Asia. The South Asians have to perceive it as a major threat to their sovereignty and democracy.

Unfortunately, think tanks of South Asian countries are unclear as to their priorities—for their countries or for US Administration?

Implementation of human rights and social justice are the two major pre-conditions for uprooting out extremist violence. Extremists often tend to misuse people's sufferings and existing social injustice for upgrading their violence while genuine democrats work hard to reduce people's sufferings to prevent extremists from growing.

Considering interdependent international relations, South Asian nations need to adopt balanced foreign policies. Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bhutan have serious flaws in their foreign policies. They rarely bother about their sovereignty and dignity.

<https://www.groundreport.com/dalit-community-faces-threat-to-life-for-inter-caste-marriage/>

DALIT COMMUNITY FACES THREAT TO LIFE FOR INTER-CASTE MARRIAGE

oct 25, 2009 | politics, world

Nepal government has remained a mere spectator though a Kathmandu-based daily Sunday made public a news report about a serious human rights violation in Dailekh district. According to the Nayapatrika daily, locals of Jaganath village ward#6 have made Amit B.K. pay a fine of Rs. 60,000 for marrying a Sabita

Shahi belonging to so-called high caste community. He was not only forced to pay the fine but was also deprived of his bride.

The neighbors and relatives of Sabita Shahi, the bride, were the ones who beat and tortured Amit BK, the bridegroom. They forcefully snatched Sabita away from Amit and tried to murder the boy, who is now reported missing following his attempt to escape the murder by running down a cliff.

There is no report of any police rescue team reaching the village. However, Prem Bhurtel, a local human rights activist, is trying to afford help for the victims from different mechanisms he is accessible to.

Many similar incidents of human rights violations arising from caste-apartheid deep-rooted in Nepal are reported every year; however, the state of Nepal has done nothing to prevent them. Nepal is a party to most of the international human rights treaties and instruments. Although the Nepali laws clearly say that caste discrimination and racist behavior are punishable, the state has rarely proved its worth in implementation form.

The reported case of Amit BK and Sabita Shahi indicates the violation of their right to marriage and self-decision about their personal life. Similarly, the attempt to murder Amit for marrying a girl of so-called high-caste background shows the threat to his life.

Although Amit and Sabita were married on 01 September and their parents took them home on 12 September when Sabita's family members, relatives and their supporting neighbors attacked Amit, the information of the incident came quite late because the victims were too terrified to inform the media. Some social workers like Bhurtel took the initiative to disclose it to the media. In Nepal, so-called high-caste people, also belonging to the ruling class, treat Dalits ('untouchables' according to ritual belief of Hindu Pundits) like animals. Because of this long-practiced caste discrimination, the Dalits are the most marginalized and excluded community in Nepal. The Dalits are still treated as 'ritually contaminated community' and are generally boycotted in villages in the form of discriminated speech and behavior.

Article 1 in the Universal Declaration of human rights states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. This has been directly violated in the case of Amit and Sabita. The declaration in Article 2 that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property,

birth or other status has also been violated openly. Similarly, the right to life, liberty and security stated in Article 3 has also been trodden upon. Article 5 set against torture and inhuman and cruel treatment has also faced a violation. Thus the incident can be linked to the violation of most of the Article in the declaration.

Now the victims' family members are reported to have taken shelter away from their permanent settlement.

<https://www.groundreport.com/long-standing-democratic-leaders-helpless-party-presidents-daughter-becomes-deputy-prime-minister/>

LONG-STANDING DEMOCRATIC LEADERS HELPLESS, PARTY PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER BECOMES DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

oct 13, 2009 | politics, world

Intra-party democracy a big question in Nepali Congress

Nepali Congress (NC) Party President Prasad Girija Prasad Koirala has made his daughter Sujata Koirala the deputy prime minister of the country.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, talking to mediapersons in Kathmandu, admitted that he took the decision to appoint Ms. Koirala as the deputy prime minister at the personal request of NC President Girija Prasad Koirala.

Meanwhile youth leaders in the NC party have strongly objected to this decision. They have questioned democracy within their party. They issued a statement today saying that their party central committee or an equivalent mechanism has not approved of this personal decision.

Ms. Koirala, who married a German citizen and soon divorced, began her political career at the behest of her father.

Like Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, she was also defeated in the Constituent Assembly elections held on 10 April 2008. Twenty-two parties, most of them having only one seat through the proportional elections, formed a new government after Maoist Chairman and the elected Prime Minister Prachanda resigned due to the parallel rule that President Dr. Ram Barana Yadav created by nullifying the prime minister's executive power by siding with the then Army Chief Rookmangud Katawal, who defied the elected government.

Current Defence Minister Vidya Bhandari, who was also defeated in the elections, has already defied the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2006 between the Maoist rebels and the then Seven Party Alliance (SPA) in 2006.

<https://www.groundreport.com/international-day-of-democracy-and-political-irony/>

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL IRONY

sep 14, 2009 | politics, world

Ban Ki-moon's message on 15 September

On the occasion of the second International Democracy Day on 15 September, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message to the world on Tuesday said, "Democracy is not only an end in itself; it contributes powerfully to economic and social progress, international peace and security and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms." The slogan of this year's International Day of Democracy encompasses the ideal of "democracy and political tolerance".

The UN General Assembly had recognized 15 September as the International Day of Democracy through its resolution A/RES/62/7 on 8 November 2007. Following the decision, the first International Day of Democracy was observed in 2008 with an ideal of promoting and consolidating democracy.

The 2009 slogan (democracy and political tolerance) of the International Day of Democracy appropriate and logical because the world has not achieved democracy in essence yet, nor is there political tolerance. Instead, political criminals have been accelerating their de-humanizing process through corrupt and belligerent thoughts and deeds.

Ground reality to consider

The production and export of arms and the creation of more civil wars in many poverty-stricken and semi-feudalist countries clearly indicate that the world needs democracy more than ever before, no matter how many countries in appearance adopt democratic constitutions.

There is no political tolerance in the world. There are serious ideological discriminations in the US. Political intolerance there has sustained racism and crimes in general. In the name of democracy, no alternative voices are given a

place. Corporatized democracy has monetized the mindset of people; consequently, it is difficult for them to realize the evils of criminalized politics.

Far worse is the situation of democracy and political tolerance in African, Latin American and Asian countries. They face a common problem of corrupt and slave-minded politics. The ruling elites in those countries run a heinous industry of brokering politics, continuously victimizing their people in every sphere.

Definitely, forces advocating for the supremacy of parliamentary democracy will, on this day, emphasize the importance of democracy of parliament though the grassroots people suffer the worst due to the class-based discriminations and prejudices in the policies made by the ruling elites. They are never prepared to accept the existence of the working class people, who are the most substantial labor forces sustaining and promoting the world.

How should ordinary people take September 15?

Innocent civilians are losing their lives for reasons they do not know. So many politically tagged organizations are war companies profiting from deaths. Several of them are favored by donor nations. Donor nations have a strong hegemonic attitude towards the peoples of the least developed countries. Donors are not ready to tolerate the independent ideas and activities of the peoples of the intellectuals in the developing countries. In order to promote democracy and political tolerance, donor nations must recognize the independence of the work of the developing countries.

In the name of democracy, democracy messiahs are making serious mistakes. They believe that the political forces that follow them unquestioningly are genuine democratic forces. Because of this belief, democracy messiahs are mismobilizing their funds to suppress the working class movement seeking to transform their society. Why do they intentionally support and strengthen corrupt parties in the developing countries is a serious question to be considered on the International Day of Democracy.

International Day of Democracy and the Peace Process of Nepal

More armed gangs, specializing in murdering and looting, were created with political tags in the plains of Nepal after Nepal's Maoist insurgents entered the mainstream peace process by depositing their People's Liberation Army (PLA) men and arms in the UN-monitored cantonments. The emergence of dozens of armed gangs when the peace process actually began in 2006 in the country indicates that arms smugglers and corrupt feudals still exercise their influence in Nepal's politics.

After the former Maoist rebels emerged as the largest political force through 10-April Constituent Assembly elections in 2008, the Nepalis became extremely happy because they believed that the Maoists' successful entry into the country's mainstream politics meant greatly for change and long-term peace. However, the political forces, who ruled Nepal previously with the backforce of feudal monarchy and foreign donors, could not tolerate the fact that the former insurgents have stood as the largest political force. Especially after monarchy was abolished with a view to creating a more inclusive and diversity-represented Nepal, the Nepali Congress (NC), the UML, and other monarchist and pro-Indian political parties took a different path geared at reversing the peace process.

One piece of evidence can be found in the Presidential coup directed at creating a failure in the republican system of democracy. The NC, the UML and monarchist and pro-Indian parties advocated that the Army Chief in a democracy need not follow the order of the elected government. They also advocated that a ceremonial head of the state with no executive power, could even re-appoint the army chief though it is an act beyond the country's Interim Constitution. This is a blatant mockery of democracy. What do the donor nations think about it? How do democracy messiahs judge this case of Nepal?

More surprisingly, the NC and the UML, the most ardent advocates of parliamentary democracy, did not allow Maoists' resolution to enter the parliamentary debate. Maoists, who are still believed to have distrusted the parliamentary model of democracy, have sought a place for wide discussions on the presidential coup within the parliament, while parliamentary democrats, who promise to die for the sake of parliamentary supremacy, have vowed to bar Maoists from discussing the issue in the House. This is a big irony in Nepal's parliamentary democracy.

The Nepalis, in the main, do not believe in the traditional model of parliamentary democracy. They want the parliamentary system to be changed into the grassroots public sphere where people's agenda can be discussed and refined. At present, the parliament in Nepal has been a centre of lethargic gathering. The systems used in the parliament are designed to serve the smugglers and black marketers, though a few public-oriented bills, never to be implemented at people's level, are passed occasionally.

One has to visit Nepal's markets to see the real face of democracy. Business forces are the ones above the nation's constitution. They can set their prices at their will. There is no state in this context. Dealers exorbitantly hike prices about which the state mechanisms express their helplessness. Business leaders say they expect to blockbusterprofit because they have enslaved political leaders in general. Amidst such anarchy and bankruptcy of ethics, the ongoing peace process, people fear, may be threatened.

Addicts of Power and Corruption

However, may the International Day of Democracy be the occasion for the addicts of power and corruption in all the countries to realize that they need to go off as soon as possible for the sake of future generations.

<https://www.groundreport.com/suspected-criminal-gang-massacres-six-in-kathmandu/>

SUSPECTED CRIMINAL GANG MASSACRES SIX IN KATHMANDU

aug 4, 2009 | politics, world

A gang of suspected criminals at 00:30 on Wednesday murdered six persons at Bhotahity in Kathmandu. According to a taxi driver, one of the eyewitnesses, the gang on a vehicle numbered B. A. Ch. 8030 drove to the bar of the pavement and killed six passers-by while some others escaped the attempt. The driver said that he and some other taxi drivers took the dead bodies to Bir Hospital after the police told them to do so after the incident.

Among the murdered have been identified as Madan Gupta, Sanjay Gupta, Dharmanath Sinha, Beena Sinha, Krishnaa Devi and one unidentified person—one man and one woman. The six of the killed are reported to have been from Bihar of India.

According to police sources, the police have captured the car though the driver called Biplavman Singh escaped after the assault.

One woman who survived the car assault said that the gang dragged another passer-by and ran over him. According to her, the deceased lived at Asan and Bangemudha in Kathmandu.

Portion of brains stuck on the metal bars of the pavement at Bhotahity Sub-way Cross was seen. Blood was also observed at the spot. One portion of the metal bar at the pavement was also seen collapsed.

Policemen deployed at the spot said that it was a murder scandal and could in no way be an accident. However, the mass media of Nepal have disseminated its news as a mere 'accident'.

The deceased are known to have been street vendors. They were returning from Bir Hospital in connection with the emergency treatment of one of their children.

Local people in angry mood have begun protesting against the massacre. Crowds gathered at the spot said that they understood the incident as a pure murder by an experienced criminal in the form of a car driver.

Ordinary people protesting in the streets have demanded the immediate arrest of the murderers for legal actions.

In Kathmandu, elite family members, usually suspected of having nexus with state power and smuggling gangs, enjoy in night brothels and come home late. Many unidentified murders in the name of car-hits had occurred in the past as well.

Law application mechanisms are considered morally quite weak due to all-pervasive corruption and bribery.

2008

<https://www.groundreport.com/debilitated-people-powerful-rulerssearching-roots-of-global-politics/>

DEBILITATED PEOPLE, POWERFUL RULERS:SEARCHING ROOTS OF GLOBAL POLITICS

jan 4, 2008 | politics, world

Rich people employ poor people to kill poor people. Workers and peasants do not have time to ill-plot things against the civilization and beauty of life. Owners who always want to remain above the toilers have time to plan and celebrate massacres. This is an enterprise harming the majority and benefiting few.

Human massacres frequently being organized in different parts of the world have not changed the nature of politics or intentions of rulers. The intention of massacres is not to bring anything good to people. Naïve people involved in such activities may be making it an expressive method. But those who have professionalized and specialized in designing massacres of civilians are the masters that cannot be punished by power other than the exploited people themselves. Such planners are well-established individuals with sufficient tie with ruling elites. They are well-protected. Where do they hide? They cannot go beyond the earth. Who protects them? Millions of people pay heavy taxes and keep security forces for their safety and for punishing criminals. But just the opposite is happening.

Those killed never knew for what causes they were victimized. Those who survive never know why they are forced to live an unsafe life. Thus, modern human civilization has been facing bizarre doldrums not only due to ultra-materialization of human minds but also due to criminalization of national and international politics. The increasing terrorist attacks especially targeted against innocent civilians in different countries shows the extent of mechanical criminalization of human minds. This is the time for global thinkers and local actors to take leisure for exercising their original minds over the roots of human plights.

Who knows? Peace efforts may be prospering into peace industries and peace industries may mean conflict industries to generate more economic transactions. What's the rationale of weapons? To protect people and nations! Hence the justification of war business? What's democracy? People's lives! What do people's lives mean? Live like human beings, not like instinct-dependent animals! If so, why are brilliant politicians smiling at human-animalization process? We need no multinationalization of conflicts.

We need conflict transformation because it qualitatively transforms our bestial nature. This means a better human culture. It again means nobler thoughts and deeds as suits the substances underlying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The UDHR substances, should they be listened to with original human brains and hearts, will definitely remind us of the World War I and the World War II consequences. They will help us remain human beings.

To remain and become better human beings, the most primordial job is to control the ongoing criminalization at political fronts, which knowingly or unknowingly, produce criminalized generations. Consequently, even professional ideas and creativities can be criminalized, and criminal potentialities can be professionalized and legalized. Look at the realities of the world! The powerful

enjoy impunity and the powerless are punished for their innocence and helplessness.

Amidst such powerlessness and helplessness, cruelties being imposed on people mold them accordingly. This has become a major way of criminalizing the uncriminalized.

Most of the injustices of the world go unreported, untouched. So many of them are deliberately covered up. Mass sufferings have been localized. The international community generally has not obtained an opportunity to perceive them truly. For instance, the inhuman practice of caste untouchability in India and Nepal, has deprived millions of so-called untouchables (politically known as Dalits) of their human dignity. But this has not become an international agenda despite some ceremonial discourse by a few foreign scholars and I/NGOs. The concerned governments have made every strategic effort to stop this agenda from entering the UN General Assembly. They want to maintain status quo. Change in people's lives means change in the elites' power structure. They do everything superficially on condition that nothing happens to the existing power structure. Justice to victims will mean injustice to victimizers. They want to maintain their superiority over toiling masses, who should always remain in a terribly debilitated mental and physical state so that things can keep on going.

Murderers, in a similar way, have maintained their business. They have been able to deceive people. They have hugely profited from deaths of innocent human beings. They do not intend to empower people morally, politically, economically and intellectually. Doing so is not their concern. Their concern is to quench their blood thirst and enjoy killing people. They want to maintain their rule of murder. Murderers are the most loyal and reliable forces for war entrepreneurs. They are the vital promoters of arms business. More weapons are selling. More human beings are being killed. More money is being generated. People's sufferings have doubled. Yet, the business of chanting slogans has been going on with no effect.

Where are we wrong? Perhaps in many places. Aren't we trying to control crimes through crimes? Aren't we trying to contain violence through violence? Aren't we talking of reducing the proliferation of weapons by producing more weapons? Why haven't we been able to change people's minds and lives? Who are we indeed?

A pilot suggestion is: let's go to the roots of human politics. Can people's politics replace rulers' politics?

PENTAGON ABC: DIVIDE AND RULE

jan 17, 2008 | politics, world

A united power is difficult to cope with. The divide-and-rule manta has been used not only within a country but also in international politics. Although it has become a basic formula for ruling classes all over the world to maintain their ruling power by suppressing their peoples, it has equally been used by dominant international powerful players.

The divide-and-rule mantra has become a basic arithmetic of political power. Almost all kinds of political power gamblers like to use this method, but all of them do not succeed so notably. However, dominant international forces have appeared more successful in the divide-and-rule tournament.

With the downfall of the Soviet Social Imperialism in the 1990s, the United States of America has become a more successful user of this ruling trick. The CIA was able to buy KGB agents and officers who became very instrumental in dividing the very powerful Soviet Union into 15 different states. The one historical power of the globe turned into many beggar states. Their scientists and scholars began to work as security guards and salespersons. Thousands of rubles became equivalent to a few dollars. Dollars replaced rubles in the Russian market. Those divided states were compelled to ask other nations for sustenance grants.

Yet, this type of division did not result with a night's preparation. A long and detailed background work took place before this happened. The CIA had even used Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein against the then Soviet Union. Today the United States claims it is the only superpower while China and India are also trying to convert themselves into superpowers.

As the divide-and-rule mantra has yielded tangible results globally for the USA, it has further promoted and modified it to continue dividing the world and to maintain its supremacy.

Directly sponsoring political parties, providing them money, training and weapons, and providing other military packages to puppet governments are some overt methods used by the Pentagon while mobilizing brains through INGOs, operating secret intelligence services (e.g. voluntary services) and running even research centers are other covert ways.

Similarly, penetrating into parties ideologically different from one another and extremizing them towards different ends has become a common infiltration method used by the CIA. After Nepal's now-outgoing King Gyanendra in April 2006 retreated from his direct rule that he began after his 1/2 coup d'état in 2005, the US Administration proposed more military aid to the royal government with a clear-cut view to interfering with Nepal's internal affairs. It tried to directly enter Nepal's government army in the name of military cooperation. The then US ambassador to Nepal James F. Moriarty visited Nepal Army's barracks and indecently told commanders to do this and that.

James F. Moriarty visited Nepal's Terai region (bordering India), met Madhesi leaders and instigated them to take actions against the Maoists. Immediately after this, devastating communal violence erupted in the Terai region. The Madhesi Janadhikar Forum, comprising not only armed robbery, smuggling and kidnapping gangs from both India and Nepal but also political workers and supporters from different mainstream parties ranging from moderate to ultra-rightist views, massacred 29 civilians in Rautahat in March 2007. The massacre is globally known as the Gaur Carnage. The Nepal government became too powerless to punish the directly involved killers roaming in the streets of Gaur. Moreover, the Nepal government even refused to accept the formal information report from the victims' side. This aroused certain questions: Where did they get money and weapons from? Why did the Nepal government's district security apparatus become a mere spectator while the massacre took place before their eyes continuously for three hours? Why did the Nepal government not punish the directly involved killers roaming around? And why did the government refuse even to register a formal information report from the victims' relatives? No matter how superficial human rights field reports regarding this massacre are, they prove gross human rights violations. But the government remained sound asleep in this matter. Therefore, fact-minded analysts (who feel insecure themselves) estimate logically that some kind of big hand was in the background of the Gaur carnage that nearly reverted Nepal back to civil war. This happened while Nepal was rapidly heading towards conflict transformation process along with the ceasefire meant for peaceful settlement of the country's political and socio-economic crises.

A similar divide-and-rule trick has been used by India through its Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). Analysts believe that there are three major trends within the Nepali Congress and two trends within the UML. It is not yet clear whether there is CIA and RAW penetration into the Communist Party of Nepal [(CPN)-Maoist].

The acceleratingly flourishing China has become a big headache to the US Administration. US media always pressurize the White House to devise military, political and economic strategies to cope with the growing power of China. China becomes an everyday topic for American media and columnists. One formula the

US Administration has applied more frequently in China is becoming active there through green INGOs and NGOs. As China lacks the universal type of political freedom, it is not that easy for the CIA to operate through their puppet political organizations. As China, by shooting down an American spy plane, has already demonstrated its abruptness in countering intelligence activities, it is natural for the CIA to seek more covert and subtle ways.

The application of the divide-and-rule mantra can be seen in other parts of the world, be they Latin American or African nations. More apparently, this can be seen in the Arab world. Long-term effects of the divide-and-rule formula have not been studied. However, it would not be wrong to believe that the divide-and-rule formula at least contributes to weapon production and business, including international political instability. Is it good? The question is there.

<https://www.groundreport.com/seven-parties-at-a-joint-mass-meeting-in-kathmandu/>

SEVEN PARTIES AT A JOINT MASS MEETING IN KATHMANDU

jan 14, 2008 | politics, world

Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Supremo Prachanda has expressed his firm belief in people's power that can defeat both domestic and foreign reactionaries that stand on the way to the overall transformation of the Nepali society. He was speaking on Monday afternoon 14 January at a joint mass meeting held by the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) in Kathmandu. He sharply criticized the Nepali Congress leaders who have still been defending monarchy in subtle ways. Addressing the mass, Prachanda said, "the existing Nepal Army cultured and nourished by feudal monarchy needs to be rectified. What Army Chief Rukmangud Katwal said regarding the impossibility of integrating the Maoist fighters into the national army is part of politics." He meant that the Nepal Army, previously known as Royal Nepal Army, performed political mission of the Royal Palace.

Prachanda reiterated that integration of People's Liberation Army into the national army is an integral part of the 12-point understanding and all other agreements signed between the Maoist insurgents and other six parties. Speaking against the spirit of all those agreements serves the interests of feudals and reactionaries unable to accept state restructuring and federal republic referred to by all as New Nepal. Prachanda also stressed that Nepalis needed to be more watchful against the conspiracies being hatched by royalists

and foreign interventionists against the Constituent Assembly polls scheduled to be held on 10 April 2008.

Previously, Nepal Army Chief Rukmangud Katuwal had said that it was impossible to integrate Maoist fighters into the national army. Although such a political statement by the army chief was never expected, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and UML leader Madhav Nepal supported the chief's argument. At today's mass meeting, Prachanda was countering this anti-agreement saying.

However, more suprisingly, UML Party General Secretary Madhav Nepal defended the Army Chief and spent almost all the time of his speech on arguing that Maoists were against the Constituent Assembly polls and that they were afraid of going to people for votes. Madhav Nepal blamed on Maoist leaders that they were still trying to escape Constituent Assembly polls due to fear of embarrassing defeat.

Nepali Congress leader Sujata Koirala, who is the daughter of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, was opposed harshly by the public for her nomination as a minister. She has defended monarchy for long. Youth workers of her own party chanted slogans against her for her pro-monarchy stand. In Nepal, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and his chief assisting hands within his party the Nepali Congress have been criticized for their secret collaboration with the feudal monarchist. Nepali Congress district leaders based in Dhading, Gorkha, Kavre, Chitwan, Jajarkot and other districts say that it would be utterly wrong to collaborate with monarchists for fear of leftists' victory in Nepal. They argue that they should accept even leftists' victory if leftists stand in favor of change and peace.

While the joint mass meeting held at the Open Theatre ended with the speech of pro-monarchy Former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, a socket bomb exploded near Bir Hospital, near 30 meters away from the mass meeting stage. Minor injuries were reported according to hospital sources. Some suspects were arrested in front of this reporter. The police did not immediately have any additional information to speak about the explosion. Some of those who came back from the mass meeting spot suspected that royalists and those within the Nepali Congress Party might be involved in this instigating activity.

Although the joint mass rallies and mass meeting were intended to kick off the Constituent Assembly poll campaign from the capital, the program spirit did not appear collective at all. All party leaders spoke against one another. Especially Nepali Congress and UML were extremely hostile to Maoists while Maoists indirectly characterized them as those serving domestic feudalism and foreign interventionism. Independent observers and analysts were not very pleased with this divided spirit.

Earlier, all the seven parties participating in this mass meeting held separate rallies of their own parties from different corners of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur.

<https://www.groundreport.com/thousands-of-security-workers-rose-up-in-kathmandu/>

THOUSANDS OF SECURITY WORKERS ROSE UP IN KATHMANDU

feb 3, 2008 | politics, world

About 20 thousand Nepali security workers under the banner of the Maoist-affiliated Nepal Security Labor Association on 2 February protested in the streets of Kathmandu demanding for an end to the brokership in security employment. They chanted slogans against the extreme exploitation and injustices involved in security employment.

The protesters belonged to dozens of security companies, including the multinational Group 4 Securitas. One of the protesters said, "I work 12 hours daily in a foreign embassy. My security company takes Rs.9,000.00 from the employer but I get only Rs. 4000.00. I want an end to this bloody system."

"Long live Federal Republic of Nepal" "We warn you, exploiters and frauds!" "All security workers of Nepal, Unite!" These were some of the slogans chanted by them. One of the passers-by, Ram Narayan Maharjan said that he was impressed by the protest of the security workers. "Their voices need to be heard," he said.

Hundreds of women security guards were seen in the protest. Most of the protesters were in their own professional uniforms.

Among the women security guards, many were leapingly chanting the slogan 'Down with the brokering system.'

Surprisingly, Nepal's mainstream mass media did not at all make any news about such a big protest by security workers for the first time in Nepal. Many civil society members still observe that the mainstream Nepali mass media have to go through many hard exercises and serious habit formation before they can be ideologically inclusive and diverse.

<https://www.groundreport.com/whoever-becomes-the-chief-white-house-occupier/>

WHOEVER BECOMES THE CHIEF WHITE HOUSE OCCUPIER

jan 30, 2008 | politics, world

US domestic policies slightly change with the change of the president. But the foreign policy rarely does.

It is almost certain that even if one of Bush's rivals wins the coming US presidential elections, there will be no immediate end to the US occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and several other countries.

As the general trend of the US foreign policy tells us, the US Administration is seeking to occupy other countries such as Iran and Pakistan. US war lobbyists, especially linked to the mainstream US media, have been making continuous efforts to manufacture in-home consent to militarily occupy Iran and Pakistan in the future. Especially after the assassination of Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto last month, US opinion cultivators have been doing their utmost to create a situation for US intervention in Pakistan.

Indeed, a country's foreign policy is and should be consistent. A foreign policy lacking consistency and continuity does not serve desired international relations. In this context, the US foreign policy is an example of consistency and continuity. But it is also an example of rigid foreign policy, sometimes given to superstitions. For example, the White House has heavily disliked the entry of Nepali armed insurgents into the mainstream peace process and the process of state restructuring. As an arms supplier to Nepal, the US Administration has not yet been able to change its rigid policy of indirectly backing up feudal monarchy, already inside the departure hall. Feudal monarchy, mainly founded on its elitist army, has continuously resisted the Nepalis' desire for overall transformation of their society. Nevertheless, the US Administration seems more worried about the imminent entry of leftist insurgents into the mainstream power than about the chronic and cancerous feudalism blocking the progress of the Nepali society.

Thus, the US consistency and continuity in the US foreign policy, though necessary indeed, in this particular context also harms international relations if the concerned foreign policy contains ideological hostility.

As things are not likely to change so fast in rigid-minded rulers, the mere change of an individual in the presidential position cannot determine a sure path of better international relations.

However, human expectations should always be positive and based on public perspectives and conscience. Should the US war lobbyists be overwhelmed by the peace-and-justice lobbyists, the White House will be compelled to slightly soften its rigidity. Even such a slight softening can provide some relaxation to international relations, paving the way for further de-rigidification that can contribute to the betterment of the international situation.

<https://www.groundreport.com/forensic-team-to-examine-mass-graves-in-kathmandu-forest/>

FORENSIC TEAM TO EXAMINE MASS GRAVES IN KATHMANDU FOREST

feb 5, 2008 | politics, world

A two-member forensic team from Finland has arrived in Kathmandu in connection with the investigation over the suspected burial site found in a forest north of the city center of Kathmandu. Some Maoist supporters initially found some human bones, clothing pieces and burnt firewood stubs in the Shivapuri forest area controlled by the Nepal Army.

Out of almost 5,000 civilians disappeared by the governments that were in power since 1992 to 2006, several dozens of detained civilians have been suspected to have been buried in the recently suspected area. However, nothing has been confirmed regarding the latest reports.

Confusions over where the disappeared are remain since the Nepal government has not disclosed anything despite national and international pressures. While the people are eager to see the mystery unfold, the forensic team consisting of Prof. Helena Ranta and Helsinki University Prof. Pekka Saukko invited at the initiative of the UNOHCHR-Nepal are believed to start their work soon, state media say.

<https://www.groundreport.com/have-hijacked-prachanda/>

HAVE HIJACKED: PRACHANDA

mar 8, 2008 | politics, world

Addressing a gathering of women in Kathmandu on 8 March, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) [Maoist] Prachanda said that Nepal is on the way to epoch-making changes. He was speaking at a mass gathering organized by his party's women wing on the occasion of the 98th International Women's Day. As in other programs, he stressed, "Those who declared us as terrorists and priced our heads for raising the issues of the constituent assembly, federalism, and republicanism have been acting as if they are the ones who developed these agenda by themselves." He was alluding to the other parliamentary parties that, according to him, 'have hijacked' his party's agenda. In an emotional tone, Prachanda added, "Women's substantial sacrifices during the 10-year long people's war have brought Nepal to this stage of change and peace." He even did not fail to urge the people to be precautionary against the imminent foreign intervention in the volatile period of peaceful transition.

Before Prachanda arrived, several women activists affiliated to the party had spoken about why they fought the 10-year long people's war and why they have joined the peace process.

Some music devoted to the constituent assembly scheduled on 10 April this year was also performed at the program.

At the end of the program, the party's women activists also began to collect signatures of women for the removal of Sujata Koirala, a minister without portfolio, from the present government. She is the daughter of Prime Minister and does his work since he is fragile. But people have characterized Nepali Congress's Sujata Koirala as someone addicted to feudal monarchy. She has been defending feudal monarchy, matching her father's stand.

Many intelligent and resourceful party leaders of the Nepali Congress have been overshadowed while relatives of party bigwigs have captured almost all the vital government positions. Since she represents the elite concerns, ignoring the majority interests, people have developed a negative attitude against her.

<https://www.groundreport.com/belgrade-crimes-against-humanity-and-introspection/>

BELGRADE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND INTROSPECTION

feb 22, 2008 | politics, world

Following the declaration of independence by Kosovo, the Serbians protested violently by attacking the US and its European allies' embassies in Belgrade on 21 February. It was wrong in principle on the side of the Serbians to attack the embassies on the one hand and it was equally unjust for the US, European Union and even the UN to encourage separatism openly.

Violence being perpetrated in the name of independence movements has degraded into communalism and racism. This situation does not contribute to the cause of international peace and friendship. Therefore, it is necessary to discourage separatism.

The United States itself does have many states. Should other nations campaign for the independence of each of those states? India has invested a huge sum of money in setting up new political parties that would separate Nepal's food-producing Terai region and serve Indian interests at best. Should Nepal and other countries similarly campaign for the independence of Kashmir?

As the UN Charter has clearly advocated for international peace and progress, equality, freedom and brotherhood, it is natural for even politically and economically weaker nations for the UN to expect its adherence to the universally agreed-upon principles.

It is not difficult to understand that the Serbians, extremely hurt by the deliberate actions of the US and its European allies that led to the declaration of independence by Kosovo, were enraged. The crimes against humanity have been committed in most parts of the country. The millions of people have died in Afghanistan and Iraq from slow-poisoning starvation, malnutrition and physical and mental tortures. Are these not the consequences of crimes against humanity? Hundreds of Dalits have already been massacred by different state-sponsored landlords' private armies in Indian rural parts. Are these not crimes against humanity?

The same types of crimes committed by two different dictators cannot be labeled in two different ways: one as crimes against humanity and the other as humanitarian actions.

Likewise, frequent massacres of innocent civilians by suicidal attackers are high level crimes against humanity. Such crimes would not go on had there been no impunity. Impunity results from countries' inability to punish the exact criminals. In fact, criminals are being rewarded while the innocent people have been victimized.

In this context, there are faults with the global media and world structures. For their improvement, introspective efforts on the side of the UN, the USA and its European allies would be useful for international peace and order.

<https://www.groundreport.com/stain-on-us-diplomatic-etiquette/>

STAIN ON US DIPLOMATIC ETIQUETTE

mar 18, 2008 | us, world

US ambassador to Nepal Nancy J. Powell has broken the universal diplomatic etiquette as she interrogated Nepal's security officials regarding security systems. She went to eastern Nepal on 17 March and gathered security information from security officials there. Nepal's national media have verified this information. Nowhere in diplomatic code has such an act been written as fair.

Ambassador Nancy J. Powell nominated by US President George Bush in March 2007 had also worked as the National Intelligence Officer for South Asia at the National Intelligence Council from 2006 to 2007.

Previous US ambassador to Nepal James F. Moriarty whom she has succeeded also frequently broke the general diplomatic etiquette by giving instructions to Nepal's political leaders during diplomatic meetings. Before King Gyanendra's direct rule collapsed, Moriarty used to even spend nights in Nepal Army barracks where he used to give instructions to army commanders against the insurgents.

Although the current US ambassador to Nepal speaks less than her immediate predecessor, she has not been found essentially different in terms of her political and military meetings with Nepali political leaders and security officials.

Although ambassador's meeting with political leaders and government officials is normal, other civilized ambassadors of advanced nations would definitely feel embarrassed to know that the US and the Indian ambassadors to Nepal act as if they are the elected leaders of Nepal.

Democracy never implies domination and imposition. A global messiah of democracy and human rights could better contribute to the cause of international friendship and peace by respecting the sovereignty and independence of all countries, rich and poor or big and small.

The political forces and governments of loan-dependent poverty-stricken countries like Nepal should be equally responsible while dealing with foreign ambassadors on political and security matters.

<https://www.groundreport.com/media-for-diversity/>

MEDIA FOR DIVERSITY

mar 15, 2008 | media & tech, world

Presenting a concept paper on the media for diversity in a media seminar organized on 15 March by the KCC Centre: Media for Diversity in Kathmandu, Nepal's senior journalist and media expert Prof. Rama Krishna Regmee referred to the vision of media for diversity as 'being conscious of, accepting and respecting differences'. He added, "honoring all the individual differences is a way of empowering citizens."

Prof. Regmee's concept paper pointed out to the partial coverage of Nepal by the Nepali mass media. He warned that tilted media coverage would further complicate conflicts; hence the need for diversification of the mass media. The exaggeration of differences by most of the current mass media aggravate conflicts, said Prof. Regmee. He was trying to make his audience aware of how the media can do two things simultaneously: (i) exaggerate diversity and aggravate conflicts and (ii) create tolerance and understanding for diversity. He stressed on the need for de-monopolizing the mass media for the sake of diversity.

Prof. Regmee's paper focused on the principles of plurality, dissent and minorities. No less stressed were the need for media attention to the deprived, the marginalized and the exploited. For this, he highlighted the 'need to diversify the media vision'.

Participating in the discussion, Dinesh Regmi, a journalist associated with the Kantipur daily, characterized diversity as a great asset of human life. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the existing situation of little diversity in the Nepali mass media. He pointed out to the media policy lacking a vision on diversity. As some measures to improve the condition of diversity in the mass media, he suggested that even several private media institutions, including those providing mass communication and journalism education, should sponsor at least one candidate for advanced media education or training. This, he expected, would result in the production of many educated and trained journalists from diverse communities, especially those belonging to the deprived ones.

Similarly, another journalist affiliated to the same daily newspaper warned that the mass media themselves have to face danger should they disrespect diversity. He pointed out to the incident of attacks on the vehicles of the Kantipur Publications (P) Ltd. as the indication of the hostility and aggressiveness developed in the minds of the suppressed and voiceless people.

On the issue of media for diversity, Binaya Guragain working for the Equal Access Nepal stressed on the need to seek diversity in media contents, ownership and opportunities. Likewise, Milan Timilsina, a journalist associated with the Ujayalo Network 90.00 MHz, emphasized on the necessity of opportunities because diversity would go up with more opportunities.

KCC= Kantipur City College

<https://www.groundreport.com/ca-polls-battles-between-progressives-and-feudalists/>

CA POLLS: BATTLES BETWEEN PROGRESSIVES AND FEUDALISTS

mar 23, 2008 | opinion, world

Every democrat in Nepal has admitted that feudalism is not confined to the traditional monarchy. It exists in the minds of the political leaderships belonging to all the political parties. Since feudal monarchy has ruled Nepal for about 240 years, its deep-seated impressions in all sectors, including political forces, cannot be ruled out. Even the ideologies that the democratic parties have adopted have not obliterated all the impressions of feudalism. The oldest political

party of Nepal, the Nepali Congress (NC), co-worked with the feudal monarchy since the formation of the party.

The 1951-change in Nepal, where the Rana hereditary rule was formally ended with the tripartite agreement (viz. India, NC and the Ranas) signed in New Delhi, handover power from the hands of the Rana hereditary rulers to the hands of monarchy (Shah dynasty).

The 1990-change, marked with the promise of multiparty democratic practices, toppled the 30-year long Panchayat regime founded on the mindset of feudal monarchy. However, those who declared themselves in favor of multiparty democratic practices could not liberate themselves from the psychological framework of feudalism. This psychological nonliberation definitely barred implementation of democratic principles and promises.

Thus, the Nepali feudalism, equipped with legislative, executive and judiciary powers, continued to function. Its reflections can still be observed and experienced in all the state organs. Even the current Seven Party Alliance government, in which monarchists to republicans work, has to a horrible extent failed to make the old mechanisms work in favor of the changed context as defined by the republican interim constitution.

On the one hand, the government and the seven parties have decided to wait for the constitution-making polls for the actual implementation of the republican provisions set in the interim constitution, feudalist forces, on the other, have been publicly defying the April uprising, marked by 19-day historical protests all over Nepal, and subsequently, any republican provisions based on the people's mandate formalized by the interim constitution.

The current interim government itself has become a fierce war zone in which both change-seekers and change-resisting feudalist forces have been struggling hard to protect their respective interests. For example, many Nepali Congress leaders have openly defied the interim constitution by advocating for the protection of monarchy. One of the ardent advocates of monarchy is Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. Now he has stopped speaking about it because of sharp criticism from his coalition partners. But his daughter Sujata Koirala, who does much of her father's work as a de facto prime minister without portfolio, has taken up his job of advocating for monarchy.

It has become the general mindset of the Nepali Congress followers and leaders that Nepal must not have any left power in government. In this context, the monarchy, with its 240-year long historical root, can be a big hand in fighting leftists. This very notion has not changed in the Nepali Congress leaderships.

Their impressions can be found equally among their followers. The current election campaign and media coverage show a high degree of left-phobia among the Nepali Congress and other monarchy-favoring parties. However, it seems extremely difficult for them to maintain monarchy against people's mandate. Doing so would definitely invite another political upheaval in the Nepali soil.

Villagers have begun to bring about news that the major political parties that were in power previously under monarchical regime have begun to use MONEY, MEDIA AND MUSCLE against the New Nepal agenda (restructuring issues). They are trying their best to defeat the change-seeking forces by misusing the existing old mechanisms.

Observers believe that the existing old mechanisms, molded by the feudal designers, do help the change-resisting forces rather than the change-seeking ones.

The implementation of the bundles of declarations and commitments is a tough challenge because of the existing feudal mechanisms incompatible with the 21st-century democratic norms. Therefore, the constituent assembly (CA) polls scheduled for 10 April 2008 is likely to take place amidst battles between the progressives and feudalists.

The decade-long Maoist insurgency, which took almost 15,000 lives, will remain unaddressed should the CA polls be hijacked by the feudal forces with the help of money, media and muscle. For ensuring that such a hijack will not take place, the workers and supporters of different democratic parties must be watchful so as to prevent ordinary people from being affected by the strategy of MONEY, MEDIA and MUSCLE.

<https://www.groundreport.com/politics-of-vendetta-vs-peace-process/>

POLITICS OF VENDETTA VS PEACE PROCESS

mar 27, 2008 | politics, world

With the smuggling in of almost 40 trucks of weapons from India, ordinary people's concern for their life security has sharpened in Nepal. They had become quite happy when the Maoist insurgents entered the mainstream peace process about two years ago. But the status-quoist forces of Nepal have never been happy since the state restructuring that would result out of the peace process would dismantle their corrupt networks and power structures. They would do

anything possible to disrupt the ongoing peace process for this particular reason. Weapons smugglers would not mind benefiting from this psychological setup of the status-quoist political forces.

Reactionary forces have reportedly killed almost 60 former insurgents since their entry into the mainstream peace process. Such murders (especially the Gaur massacre in which 28 former insurgents were massacred in cold blood on 21 March 2007.) were aimed at revoking war to ultimately reverse the process of state restructuring. But the former insurgents vowed to make the peace process a success. This vow has also troubled the power-embezzlers and weapon smugglers a lot.

However, it is believed that the ordinary Nepali masses must have been observing such activities.

As the Nepal government deliberately preferred to let impunity go unquestioned, the criminalization of politics has horribly accelerated in Nepal. Even robbers, smugglers and other criminal gangs have formed armed groups under different communal and racist tags.

The Madheshi Janadhikar Forum (MJF), initially set up for an exclusive purpose of annihilating all the Maoists and Maoist supporters in the Terai region, massacred 28 Maoist party workers at Gaur on 21 March 2007. This is known as the Gaur massacre since then. The massacre took place while both the Maoists and the MJF were gathering for their respective mass meetings at the same place and on the same day. In response to this massacre, the Maoist leadership strongly reiterated their undaunted commitment to the ongoing peace process despite such efforts to revoke war in the country. In 2002 when the second peace talk was going on, the massacre of 19 Maoist party workers by the then Royal army men in Ramechhap district projected the insurgents back into war. The massacre is known as the Doramba massacre.

Nepal's Maoist insurgents, after decade-long armed struggles with the agenda of restructuring Nepal through a federal republican system, have been in the peace process for almost two years. Their People's Liberation Army men and weapons have been deposited in the UN-monitored cantonments. While their army men and weapons remain in the cantonments, newly formed armed groups have been organizing vendetta campaigns against them. While Nepal's mass media have been disseminating syndicated news across Nepal against the alleged activities of former insurgents, different armed groups have been carrying out their vendetta plans in different parts of the country.

In the meantime, Maoist leader Prachanda repeated that he had shared information about the plot to assassinate political leaders. He said he was saddened by the continuous killing of his party workers while the preparations for peaceful elections were going on.

Although Nepal's Home Minister Krishna Sitaula has viewed the coming constituent assembly poll as a bloodless revolution, dozens of people have already been killed by criminal gangs before the election. Recently, an election candidate was killed in Nepalgunj. This shows how vendetta politics is going on.

Certain sections within the UML and the Nepali Congress having deep-rooted links to monarchy began the violent politics of vendetta when Nepal's peace process began with state restructuring and progressive agenda.

Politics of vendetta is against the peace process. The Nepalis face a big challenge. On the one hand, they must choose the agenda for the transformation of their society because it is still under medieval conditions, and on the other, they have to prevent the possibility of civil war.

Peace for the majority comes along with progressive changes. The majority of the Nepalis live de-humanized lives while few ruling elites and their relatives enjoy what they call 'democracy'. Some even think peace comes through the genocides and annihilation of the poverty-stricken masses. They might be trying to import as more weapons as possible. Similarly, arms dealers and smugglers are said to be very active in the current circumstances. The politics of vendetta encourages such a criminal trade.

To defeat reactionary and medieval politics, it is vital for the ruling political parties to mobilize their people for the implementation of state restructuring and progressive agenda. But mobilizing their people for the sake of vendetta politics means deliberately offending the peace process.

Maoists definitely have killed people during their insurgency period. They have admitted their shortcomings. They have become a major national political organization. Their insurgency has exposed and highlighted the grassroot agenda of the Nepali society. But they have seriously lacked communication competency. Although they spend a lot of money on publicity, they still lack proper public relations. Their war-time public relations does not seem to be working at present. Therefore, so many people still don't understand what their insurgency meant. Their agenda have become every party's agenda. This was the golden opportunity for them to promote themselves peacefully. But they did not know how to communicate about their own agenda. Other opponents are

trying to displace them from Nepal through media war. But they little understand this.

As far the state is concerned, it had killed far more than the insurgents had. Even after two years of the commencement of the peace process, the state has not given any information about the whereabouts of the citizens disappeared by it during the State of Emergency in 2001. Nevertheless, the Nepali Congress, the UML and other parties (that worked to suppress the insurgency) have not apologized to publics for their decade-long all-pervasive corruption, ill-governance, suppression, and the killing of thousands of people. This lack of political morality among the ruling forces, people usually cannot guess where it will lead them, obfuscates even the ongoing peace process.

However, hoping for the best and preparing for the worst can be the only option for the suffering Nepalis. Hoping for the best definitely includes making every possible effort to avert civil war. But implementing changes or resisting them will cost any way.

<https://www.groundreport.com/reconsider-media-mindsetprachanda/>

RECONSIDER MEDIA MINDSET:PRACHANDA

apr 6, 2008 | politics, world

Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) – Maoist – has emphasized on the need to reconsider media mindset to suit to the people's aspirations of vast changes in the country. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony organized by Radio Mirmire 89.4 MHz on 6 April in Kathmandu. He urged Nepal's media professionals to motivate themselves against the existing status-quoism and engage in empowering people with progressive agenda-setting.

After having commenced the official broadcasting of Radio Mirmire 89.4 MHz, Chairman Prachanda not only highly appreciated the encouraging role of the mass media during people's democratic movement against autocracy but also complained that some big media houses were engaged in war-provoking propaganda. He did not name which big media they were. However, he further said, "The mass media can play a historical role in establishing a new national unity during this peaceful period.

” Regarding press freedom, Prachanda reiterated his usual remarks that the mass media must be under people’s control, not under state control. He said that his party CPN (Maoist) was in favor of liberating the mass media from state control so as to bring them under public ownership.

Chairman Prachanda further stated that superpowers were frightened with the Maoists’ adjacency to power because this “would influence not only South Asian politics but also global political trends.” Prachanda was of the view that superpowers were exercising to prevent Nepal’s Maoists from going to power. He requested the Nepali media to evaluate their own mindset to suit to the changed circumstances of the country.

At the inaugural ceremony, Managing Director of Radio Mirmire 89.4 MHz Bishnu Sapkota categorically said that Nepal lacked genuine press freedom. “There is no press freedom in Nepal. Nepal’s press freedom is in the hands of a few media owners,” he said. According to Sapkota, Nepal’s media have not generally been able to disseminate information on new agenda in a people-oriented manner. He claimed that Radio Mirmire 89.4 MHz would be quite different in the sense that it would really broadcast the voice of the voiceless, representing the suffering masses.

<https://www.groundreport.com/mobilize-army-against-maoists-sher-bahadur-deuba/>

MOBILIZE ARMY AGAINST MAOISTS: SHER BAHADUR DEUBA

apr 1, 2008 | politics, world

Nepali Congress Leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, according to some of Nepal’s national dailies, has demanded for the mobilization of Nepal Army for the Constituent Assembly polls scheduled to be held on 10 April. The Nepal Army has time and again expressed its objection to the debate of its integration with the insurgents’ army though the point of military integration has clearly been stated in Nepal’s interim constitution for conflict management purpose. The high ranking officials, most of whom are relatives of royal family members, are still loyal to the outgoing monarchy.

Generally, the Nepalis understand Mr. Deuba as a pro-monarchist and rightist leader within the Nepali Congress. He had split the Nepali Congress in 2001

after having handed over democracy to King Gyanendra. In the same year, he declared the State of Emergency in Nepal. Hundreds of citizens were disappeared by the state during his government. Nepal globally ranked the first in disappearing citizens. Mr. Deuba has not morally admitted any shortcomings his prime ministership.

Most of the people in Nepal view Mr. Deuba very negatively not only because he aligned with the feudal monarchy and helped to promote autocracy in Nepal but also because he had used dirty tricks of contaminating Nepal's parliamentary politics.

As the majority of the Nepalis believe Mr. Deuba to have been loyal to monarchy though he claims he is a republican, his demand for mobilizing the counterinsurgent Nepal Army during the elections, it will further destroy his own supporters' faith in him. As the insurgents have their insurgent army in the UN-monitored cantonments, this type of demand by a monarchist leader raises a serious doubt. Mr. Deuba's stance on the ongoing peace process itself can be questioned as he has demanded to mobilize the government army against the Maoist insurgents. As his political position has declined sharply due to his moral degradation, he appears very worried over his political future though he is one of the Nepali favorites of the US Administration and the European Union.

So far, the Nepali Congress, the UML and the insurgents have not have not issued their official comment on Mr. Deuba's anti-peace process stress on mobilizing the monarchy-trained Nepal Army, still to be democratized.

<https://www.groundreport.com/information-age-touches-the-untouchables/>

INFORMATION AGE TOUCHES THE “UNTOUCHABLES”

apr 23, 2008 | politics, world

Over 250 million people worldwide suffer from caste discrimination, which is an obstacle to the fulfillment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights (BBC, 2005). The fact that millions of people in the 'global village' live with no human dignity is not a joke and it sounds an utter stupidity to continue taking it as lightly as we have so far. Therefore, in this information age marked by so much advocacy on human rights, it would always be relevant to stress the need of information dissemination against the practice of caste untouchability—the most embarrassing issue of the age of information revolution.

Human rights agenda have been an integral part of democracy today. Dalit issues in India and Nepal have been indispensable human rights issues accordingly. In this Cyber Age, raising Dalit issues not only as an advocacy profession but also as a serious social responsibility has been a challenge for all conscious and honest human beings.

So far, a few caste discrimination-related incidents have been reported by media and comments made by human rights organizations. No matter how serious caste-based oppression is, especially the concerned states have been found unresponsive to it.

Many untoward incidents based on caste discrimination commonly occur mainly in India and Nepal every year, with many deaths related to caste violence in India. Media cover some of them; nevertheless, the concerned countries have not yet prepared their concrete position to protect the Dalits from frequent inhuman treatment.

Nepali Dalits

Embarrassingly, the age-long fighters of democracy in Nepal have not incorporated the issue of untouchability as a major agenda in their party politics and programmes. The frequent strikes and protests of political parties never included the medieval practice of untouchability as an agenda. To this day, no political party in Nepal has called any strike or any movement on behalf of the Dalits. No parliamentary sessions have ever raised a demand for making a national promulgation against the practice of caste untouchability. Parties' sisterly organizations merely murmur as per their party guidelines. In so many cases, party workers at district and village levels have been found involved in the discriminatory behavior. It raises a question—are they properly informed about the seriousness of the issue?

There remains a great deal of superficiality among political parties over this issue. The lack of intra-party communication at agenda level is a proof of it. Equally, there has never been any inter-party communication on this issue. All we know about the stand of political parties on Dalit issues is that they mention in their election manifestos some ceremonial things about what they simply wish for the Dalit community and appoint some leaders in their Dalit wings. This type of total absence of organized information dissemination on the medieval practice of caste untouchability among and within parties must now be realized, though too late.

What is equally interesting to mention in this context is the passiveness of religious leadership on the practice of caste untouchability. There are many

religious institutions, all having the vision of the wellbeing of mankind. Hindu religious leaders are said to have been educated in profound Sanskrit philosophy. Hindu theologians always claim the superiority and universality of their philosophy. But the most surprising thing in the world is that they have never seriously dealt with the cruel treatment going on in the name of caste untouchability which is clearly referred to in several Hindu scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads, the Mahabharata and the Manusmriti. All they say about untouchability is that it is not the product of Hindu religion or Hindu politics. In fact, religious information dissemination against the cruel practice of caste untouchability is almost nill. A few pundits' individual efforts against the practice of caste untouchability has not been backed up institutionally by religious institutions.

Surprisingly, no religious manifesto denouncing the practice of caste untouchability has come out yet. Is it so because Hindu scholars have profound knowledge in their philosophy and lack basic knowledge in human rights and civic fundamental rights?

Thus, one may wonder about the primary cause for the existing multisectoral inertia regarding Dalit issues. Is it the lack of information or the lack of the sense of responsibility? Substantial and regular information dissemination against the practice of caste untouchability could definitely help the suffering Dalit masses to a great extent.

Global Media and the Practice of Untouchability

The majority of global population still does not know that millions of human beings labeled as 'untouchables' are treated like animals somewhere in the global village. Only a limited number of non-Asians know what the practice of caste untouchability is and that it is deep-rooted in South Asian countries like India and Nepal.

Millions of Dalits in South Asia are facing extremely cruel and inhuman treatment in the name of caste. The violation of Dalits' rights starts right from Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and never ends. Yet, global media sporadically give just a nominal coverage to such a painful issue deeply tied to the dignity of human civilization. Should global media prove their vigour in this matter, concerned states will certainly face difficult times to persist with the medieval practice of caste untouchability.

But national media, with their powerful agenda-setting role, have to treat the practice of caste untouchability as a major mainstream agenda first. Should this issue remain only a minority issue subject to the mercy of seasonal advocates,

there will be no real impact on policymaking institutions. For example, National Dalit Commission and other Dalit-related institutions of Nepal need sufficient media input at present.

So far, there has been no adequate utilization of the trends of the current information revolution at national and international levels for freeing Dalits from painful caste shackles.

Indeed, the everyday practice of caste untouchability among so-called 'touchable' and 'untouchable' human beings (ritually 'pure' and 'impure' human beings) can provide everyday relevance to global media that seek interesting and informative stories with varieties of angles. It therefore is reasonable to say that global media must not forget the dehumanized lives of Dalits while disseminating human rights information globally.

<https://www.groundreport.com/ca-poll-result-uncomfortable-for-uml/>

CA POLL RESULT UNCOMFORTABLE FOR UML

apr 13, 2008 | politics, world

After an embarrassing defeat in the constituent assembly (CA) poll held on 10 April 2008, Emaalay (UML) General Secretary General Madhav Nepal has submitted his resignation to his party central committee in a press meet held this afternoon at party headquarters, Kahmandu. Speaking to reporters, he said that the UML would soon quit the coalition government.

General Secretary Madhav Nepal told reporters that the CA poll results were 'surprising, perplexing and unimagined'.

In response to journalists' question why the UML lost the CA poll battle, Nepal said his party central committee would seriously scrutinize causes. But he did not fail to allude to his usual allegations of threats, beatings and abductions. Contrary to his allegations, Carter Center, UN Mission to Nepal, European Union and dozens of other national and international observers have reported that the April 10 CA poll was free and fair, and they marked it as an epoch-making event.

Giving background information on the context of loss in the CA poll, UML Information Chief Raghuji Pant questioned the fairness and independence of the election. He mentioned the phrase 'undesired activities,' referring to the CA poll.

Pant himself had been defeated by Maoist candidate Pampha Bhusal in Lalitpur constituency #3.

UML, which was the largest party in Nepal, lost the CA poll even in its previous strongholds, including Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Jhapa.

The UML had joined King's regressive government in 2005. Before that, it had approved the State of Emergency against Maoist insurgents whom the government also labeled as terrorists. Before the CA poll, Maoist leaderships had been urging calling for seat-sharing and cooperation between the two parties, but the UML rejected this call, saying it was Maoists' fear of losing.

At the time of writing this line, Maoists have won more than 62 constituencies, three to four times the seats won by the UML and the Nepali Congress. Both the NC and UML, Nepal's long-ruling parties accused by people of becoming corrupt, have hesitated to accept poll results. Their party workers have been imposing allegations on the winning Maoists though international and national poll observers, including the UN and European Union, have said the poll was excellent.

Referring to the loss in the CA poll, some UML cadres standing at the party headquarters gate expressed their view that the General Secretary's resignation should be accepted. They said that the UML had to accept the Maoists' call for bilateral cooperation in the CA poll. It was a serious mistake, they said.

<https://www.groundreport.com/media-free-mind-slave/>

MEDIA FREE, MIND SLAVE

may 3, 2008 | opinion, world

context: World Press Freedom Day

Journalists all over the world celebrated the World Press Freedom today as the 3 May has been universally adopted as the day for media people to observe. The universalization of the press freedom day definitely does contain a message: to ensure the free flow of fair, accurate and unbiased information to the people.

Press freedom is people's right to be engaged in communication about the issues and events that concern them.

Empowerment has become a catchword for politicians and media people to reiterate these days. This actually means making people informed about their human rights and enabling them to take up challenges. Perhaps most analysts and critics do understand press freedom from this perspective. However, conflicts of interests naturally keep on going. Hence the need for exercising over the concept of press freedom.

Understanding Press Freedom

As far as press freedom ideals are concerned, remembering Adlai E. Stevenson's quote would be worth remembering: The free press is the mother of all our liberties and of our progress under liberty. Another democratic definition of press freedom comes from Benjamin Disraeli: The press is not only free, it is powerful. That power is ours. It is the proudest that man can enjoy.

Practices

Global media and human rights reports have already confirmed that more than 174 journalists have already been killed in Iraq since the US invasion there. We have no more information about the latest killings there and elsewhere. This shows how endangered press freedom is.

In many countries, misuse of press freedom has become a serious problem. Especially in transitional democracies, media manipulation of politics and political manipulation of media are great problems in the process of utilizing press freedom. In this context, noting Samuel Johnson's saying would be worthwhile: liberty of the press is a blessing when we are inclined to write against others, and a calamity when we find ourselves overborne by the multitude of our assailants.

Democratic Perspectives on Press Freedom in the 21st Century

The mass media today cannot be really free unless they become ideologically unprejudiced. In fact, the media need to be the multi-ideological front for serving the suffering masses despite their industrial nature. Being industries does not mean getting detached from humanitarian sensitivity and social responsibility. Monetary race may undermine this obligation. It would be worth remembering how successful media and media professionals have become regarding the fulfillment of their social responsibilities.

Only when the mass media can encompass diversity or represent diverse voices without any ideological prejudices, a great deal of press freedom can be enjoyed. There is a growing tendency to misinterpret that press freedom is limited to media work. Media owners' freedom to suppress contents cannot be considered as press freedom. Press freedom matters a lot in information gathering, processing and presentation.

In countries like Nepal, the working journalists' act was made 13 years ago but it has not been implemented to this day. This is a direct threat to press freedom in this country where rulers have suppressed media contents at times.

In the third world, journalists have a serious moral obligation to intellectually fight hegemonism and psychological slavery. Media are free but media people are not free from mental slavery. Therefore, today's press freedom day should remind us that our media may be free but our mind may still be slave. Let our information freedom be a matter to consider. Let there be a clarity in understanding what press freedom is: ownership freedom or expression freedom?

<https://www.groundreport.com/press-freedom-for-human-rights/>

PRESS FREEDOM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

may 2, 2008 | politics, world

Presenting a working paper on Press Freedom for Human Rights on the eve of the World Press Freedom Day, media expert Prof. Ram Krishna Regmee on Friday said, "press freedom is citizens' tool. The media do not inform only but also play a watchdog role." Prof. Regmee, also working as a media educator cum independent journalist, advised the mass media to work as the lobbyists and advocates for press freedom and human rights. He expressed the view that the media should keep on doing their job ethically and seriously even while the concerned forces may be ignoring the represented voices.

In his working paper, Prof. Regmee has referred to discrimination, displacement, disappearance, deprivation and violence in Nepal as regularly occurring human rights violations deserving media attention. He also tried to draw his audience's attention to the local and global food crisis being less heeded by the national media. He expressed his dissatisfaction at how the media have been mainly playing for politicians rather than for suffering people.

Speaking at the same program, film Director Lakshmi Nath Sharma stressed that film is the most powerful mass media little cared by media scholars. He cited the film 'Maina Sunar' the shooting of which just began on Thursday as an example of the film on human rights issues. He referred to Maina Sunar as a 'right, good and appreciable attempt' to link human rights issues with film business. He said, "the responsibility of filmmaker is not less than the other media." But sometimes, undefined or misdefined freedom gives negative encouragement to make pornographic movies, Sharma thinks.

Sharma warned that the media freedom may be misused by dictators. He reminded his audience of how Hitler, Mussolini and other dictators had misused the powerful media of film.

Another speaker at the seminar journalist National News Agency journalist and media educator Shree Ram Singh Basnet expressed his dissatisfaction over the growing NGOization of human rights. He said, "human rights must not be just a chanting slogan or a sponsored campaign. Citizens' personal and domestic behavior needs to be improved for the improvement in the nation' human rights' condition." He added, "the greatest violator of human rights is the state. When human beings under police custody die or are tortured or unsafe, this is where the media should not fail to focus their attention." He compared the Nepali media and the ones in Scandanavian countries: in Scandanavian countries, what appears on media gets serious media attention while even serious media reports do not get any government attention in Nepal.

Similarly, journalist Dinesh Regmi associated with the Kantipur daily, said "Press freedom is citizens' right. It is not journalists' individual right." Regmi pointed out to the tendency of concealing information in Nepal. "Nepali press is full of prejudices, politicization and superficial reporting. It is weak in reporting the nation's socio-economic issues properly," he added. He equally emphasized on the need to follow up regularly on human rights issues.

At the program, National News Agency journalist cum student Krishna Adhikari urged media people to look into the current status of journalists while observing the World Press Freedom Day.

Likewise, student participant Ms. Radha Poudel stressed on the need to reach the grassroot public with human rights agenda than to limit oneself to urban seminars.

Many other participants felt the need for more proactive media role in favor of the protection and promotion of human rights and press freedom. For this, they pointed out to the over-politicization of every sector as a major barrier.

The seminar was organized at the KCC Seminar Hall by the KCC Center: Media for Diversity. **KCC is Kantipur City College based in Kathmandu where Master Degree in Mass Communication and Journalism is taught.*

<https://www.groundreport.com/congress-party-workers-demand-intra-party-democracy/>

CONGRESS PARTY WORKERS DEMAND INTRA-PARTY DEMOCRACY

may 11, 2008 | politics, world

Dozens of students affiliated to the Nepal Student Union, a student wing of the Nepali Congress, demonstrated today at Baluwatar. They were demanding with Nepali Congress leaders for a change in the existing student leadership that just contributed to status quoism in the country. One of the demonstrating students said, "We want a change in the student leadership that helped corrupt party leaders rather than genuine republicans." Another student was shouting, "We don't want a self-defeating leadership. We no longer want the helpless leadership that defeated the party in the constituent assembly."

One of the passers-by commented on the demonstration as 'an effort by youths supporting the Nepali Congress to seek democracy within the Nepali Congress Party where individual elites make decisions while devoted and life-giving leaders and cadres silently submit to their decisions.

During King Gyanendra's regressive period, Koirala elites and other pro-monarchy leaders within the Nepali Congress ousted student leaders Gagan Thapa and Gururaj Ghimire from the student union leadership for chanting slogans against the feudal monarchy. This shows how powerful a few elites are in the Nepali Congress.

After the Nepali Congress secured the second position after Maoists in the recent constituent assembly poll, Nepali Congress activists who believed they had to secure the first position in any way possible have questioned the current leadership.

Today's demonstration by a few dozen student activists indicates that they belong to the republican pole within the party. It hints at the demand for a big change also in the party central leadership.

Many people supporting the Nepali Congress are not happy with the current leadership. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, also the President of the Nepali Congress Party, has not resigned from his party head position while the UML Secretary General Madhav Nepal, after defeat, has resigned from his party leader position. An old man, approximately 65, reading today's *Deshantar Weekly* at a teashop near Prime Minister's Gate at Baluwatar, said, "Our Congress party must not be the personal property of Koirala dynasty."

<https://www.groundreport.com/108th-anniversary-of-gorkhapatra-daily/>

108TH ANNIVERSARY OF GORKHAPATRA DAILY

may 6, 2008 | media & tech, world

Nepal's historical national daily, the Gorkhapatra published in Nepali has celebrated its 108th anniversary today. It is one of the few centennial newspapers in South Asia. Dev Shumshere in the traditional media age initiated the publication of Nepal's first newspaper Gorkhapatra in 1901. He was one of the short-term prime ministers during the 104 year-old Rana hereditary rule.

The Gorkhapatra daily has remained the government-owned newspaper. Although it had commenced its publication as a weekly paper in its earliest phase, it was made daily in 1961. This newspaper served the hereditary Rana rule at first. After hereditary Rana rule was gone in 1951, it served the partyless Panchayat rule run by absolute monarchy from 1961 to 1990. It, similarly, has worked as the government mouthpiece from 1990 onwards.

However, free media critics have raised the voice for making the centennial newspaper free from the government grips. For this, intellectuals have begun debates regarding whether to privatize the newspaper.

As far as its ownership issue is concerned, most of the people and civil society members want the newspaper to be kept under public ownership. While the newspaper is under government control, it has the tendency to serve the authorities. At the same time, private ownership is linked to power, ideology and political influence. In this context, most prefer public ownership under which even ordinary people will share financial burden. The current communication minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara has time and again reiterated that the government would work to make government made public media in the future.

However, pro-Western political forces in Nepal want to hand over everything to business individuals. Their ultimate goal is to privatize everything regardless of human rights conditions in the country.

On the anniversary day, Vijay Chalise, the Chief Editor of the Gorkhapatra daily has stated in his lead article in the same daily today that the publication has professional manpower to utilize which expert hands of management are required. He means that the Gorkhapatra corporation has to improve its management aspects in order to compete with private media.

The Gorkhapatra is a popular newspaper in Nepal. Millions of its readers are middle class people, especially working as civil servants.

<https://www.groundreport.com/global-relevancy-of-buddhism-birthday-of-buddha/>

GLOBAL RELEVANCY OF BUDDHISM: BIRTHDAY OF BUDDHA

may 20, 2008 | politics, world

CELEBRATING 2552ND COMMEMORATIVE BIRTHDAY OF BUDDHA

The world is celebrating the 2552nd birthday of Gautam Buddha, the Nepal-born philosopher and spiritual leader of ancient times. The Nepalis and the Buddhists all over the world celebrate this day as World Buddhism Day.

It is surprising that world leaders afford little or no time to think about the meaning and relevancy of Buddhism in human society where there are serious problems. Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Maoist Chairman Prachanda as the chief guest addressed yesterday a special ceremony organized in Lumbini by the International Buddhist Federation on the eve of the World Buddhism Day. Lumbini is the site where Gautam Buddha was born.

This article is dedicated to the World Buddhism Day so as to shed some light on the significance of Buddhism as a human philosophy that can scientifically improve human thoughts and behavior.

LITTLE BUDDHA VS YOUNG FRUSTRATED PRINCE

Gautam Buddha was born 2552 years ago in Nepal's Lumbini area, a place recognized by the UNESCO as world heritage. Gautam Buddha's pre-enlightenment name was Siddhartha Gautam. He was the prince and the son of King Suddhodan. When at the age of 29 he gave birth to his son Rahul, he got highly frustrated because he had seen old age and death that troubled his mind all the time. He questioned himself very hard and explored within himself regarding the underlying factors of human crisis.

Besides, he took interest in studying other religious philosophies to understand the meaning of life. Yet he was not satisfied with the preachings contained in different religious treaties. He therefore meditated for several years before his spiritual enlightenment. His post-enlightenment name became Buddha. Later, his follower Ashoka spread his knowledge in India as well.

BIG BUDDHA: HIS MATURE PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN LIFE

Buddhism is not taken only as a religious philosophy but also as a way of good life. It has become a moral science, so necessary for humanity. Especially, this philosophy is highly relevant for leading an ethical life marked by honesty, thoughtfulness and wisdom.

Buddhism explains the purpose of human life by teaching people to combat inherent evils, the primary causes of suffering. Those who understand Buddhism understand that only material prosperity does not make human life truly happy. They will be able to discover that human actions are guaranteed to be bad so long as human thoughts are bad. According to Buddhism, thoughts are the seeds of actions. Therefore, this philosophy so much emphasizes on cultivating positive thinking in human psychology.

Moreover, Buddhism teaches human beings about scientific ethics. This philosophy is the cornerstone of human rights concept because it debates about human suffering and its underlying causes. This philosophy equally states that human beings suffer because of selfishness, inequality and injustice. To create a permanent peace in the world, Buddhism advocates justice. Thus, this philosophy is highly scientific as far as modern principles of democracy and human rights are concerned.

About 1.45 billion people around the world follow Buddhist faith. Buddhist thinkers say that human beings should try to be 'Buddha,' i.e., 'awakened'.

Although Buddha was born in Asia, his legacy (Buddhism) has now become world heritage. Buddhist philosophy is getting popular in Western Europe as well. The principal reasons behind its rapid popularity are its scientific foundations

marked by a profound perception of human mind, psychonatural therapies, pragmatic ethical principles and the principles of peaceful co-existence.

The principles of peaceful co-existence have become vital components in the domain of international relations.

A true respect to Buddha and his contributions will be characterized by adherence to human rights norms and inter-ideological tolerance while practicing democracy.

Besides, Buddhism teaches people to be their own boss. This philosophy is obviously against mental slavery, a serious problem prevailing in many developing nations heavily dependent on foreign aid.

FORMULA OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

Indeed, what Buddhism teaches the world is not very complicated to understand. Phrases like 'don't speak lies,' 'don't steal,' 'don't harm others,' and others are simple, practical and scientifically justifiable. Can one count how many problems liars have to face? "Don't steal" means work hard and generate power. It means never get involved in corruption, fraudery and irregular activities to earn money.

Today black business has harmed the world. Corruption has stolen the future of millions of people. Similarly, intentions of harming others in the process of seeking self-happiness have conflagrated violence and oppression on a global scale.

Will war-loving peace industrialists producing and selling weapons of mass destruction ever stop to think about their apparent demerits on the occasion of the 2552nd commemorative birthday of peace educator Gautam Buddha?

<https://www.groundreport.com/did-ex-king-gyanendra-really-quit-palace-at-midnight/>

DID EX-KING GYANENDRA REALLY QUIT PALACE AT MIDNIGHT?

may 30, 2008 | politics, world

The properties within the Narayanhiti Palace have not been calculated as no one was allowed to raise any question regarding the royal family members and their palace before. But people have now begun to raise questions regarding the properties in the palace.

It is natural for the people to take interest in their own properties used by the royal family members before. The Ex-king and his relatives used different public properties as their own. Those who raised any question regarding monarchy would be considered anti-state. Now with the implementation of republic, many questions will be raised regarding the deeds of former monarchy. People are even likely to reiterate their debate on the 6/1 massacre (2001). The ex-royal family members do have untaxed and illegal properties worth billions. Who will answer for them?

While the government was preparing to send an official letter to Ex-King Gyanendra ordering him to depart from the palace for ever because the republic has been implemented, today' Nayapatrika daily wrote that former king Gyanendra ran away from the palace at 00:45 using the north gate of the palace. The daily even claims that many trucks carrying properties followed him. In the mean time, the government says it has not obtained any official information from Gyanendra about his departure from the palace.

If the news that former king Gyanendra ran away from the palace at midnight without informing the government of Nepal, some kind of investigation into theft may be necessary because the palace did have not only private but also public properties, though never audited by the Office of the Auditor General of Nepal. No inventory about the properties in the palace has been made available to the media so far. So much is still nontransparent about the palace and the ex-king's activities. So many questions are likely to remain unanswered.

However, people are eager to see timely and proper actions to make the majority of working class people feel that a real democratic republic has been initiated. "We can't see real republic unless the Nepal government can confiscate all illegal properties and weapons stored secretly by the ex-King," said one restaurant

waiter Rajan, who curiously stood, like many others, in front of the south gate of the Narayanhiti Palace Durbar Marg. Adding to his words, student Prajwol Aitahang said, “with the same illegal properties and latest weapons, he [ex-king] may create troubles in the near future.” Aitahang adds, this man [he means Gyanendra] is so greedy that he captured all the properties of late King Birendra and all of his family members who died in the Narayanhiti carnage. Now also, he may have stolen many invaluable things from the palace, which is the public property.”

Indeed, the ordinary people have long-term thoughts in their minds. But one still wonders why the government fueled by people’s invincible power trembles about doing according to people’s genuine agenda.

<https://www.groundreport.com/international-recognition-of-maoist-peoples-war/>

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF MAOIST PEOPLE’S WAR

may 28, 2008 | politics, world

Nepalis Said Goodbye to Monarchy for Ever

At 23:26—Kathmandu Time—on 28 May 2008, Nepal’s 240 year-long monarchy was constitutionally abolished by the recently elected Constituent Assembly. However, millions of Nepalis throughout the country had been celebrating the republic from early morning on.

Nepal’s monarchy was in danger since 1996 when the Maoists initiated their anti-state armed insurgency, which they refer to as ‘People’s War’. Their primary demand was the abolition of monarchy because it was not at all concerned with people’s interests. The Nepalis had almost thrown away the monarchy in 1990 when a heinous massacre that claimed almost 600 lives took place on the way to the palace when a huge mass was proceeding towards the palace. But the leading political parties negotiated with the palace and went to power. The political parties got closer to the palace on the one hand, and on the other, the people were getting more frustrated.

In 1996, Maoists initiated an armed insurgency in which frustrated masses actively participated. King Gyanendra, by using the traditional parties loyal to the monarchy, declared Maoists as 'terrorists' and obtained heavy US and Indian military aid along with money. Despite the Indian and American efforts to suppress the Maoist insurgency, it escalated more acceleratingly across Nepal.

After the 2001 Narayanhiti Palace carnage in which 10 royal family members, including the then King Birendra, Queen Aishwarya, and Prince Dipendra were killed, King Gyanendra declared himself the successor. He became more power-ambitious. He denied any possibility of listening to the insurgents' agenda. He instead proceeded to reconsolidate his power through 2/1 coup d'état in 2005.

King Gyanendra's coup d'état included the detention of top political leaders traditionally loyal to him. Angered by this move, the traditional parties decided to collaborate with the Maoist insurgents who saw favorable situation for abolishing monarchy. They jointly launched a peaceful and unarmed political movement against monarchy. The movement enjoyed the support of the international community.

The international support to the agenda of the constituent assembly and republic meant the recognition of Maoist people's War because these were the agenda frequently advocated by Maoists as the essence of their insurgency.

The international recognition of the constituent assembly poll held on 10 April facilitated Nepal's peace process. Maoist insurgents won most of the constituent assembly seats. The international community supported their victory. When the monarchy was ultimately abolished by the elected constituent assembly, the Maoist People's War enjoyed a real international support.

However, challenges remain for the Nepalis. Feudal forces have formed many armed and criminal groups with a clear counterrevolutionary purpose. Feudal forces schooled and cultured by the former feudal monarchy have deep-rooted influence in state mechanisms.

In the meanwhile, few hundred royal zealots affiliated to feudal state mechanisms have been threatening people with series of bomb explosions in public places. Counterrevolutionary forces may benefit from the exiting impunity in the country.

<https://www.groundreport.com/narayanhity-royal-palace-heavily-guarded-on-republic-initiation-day/>

NARAYANHITY ROYAL PALACE HEAVILY GUARDED ON REPUBLIC INITIATION DAY

may 28, 2008 | politics, world

Heavy security arrangements around the Narayanhity Royal Palace were noticed in Kathmandu today when the elected Constituent Assembly is going to implement the declaration of republic within a few hours. Nepal Army, Armed Police, Nepal Police and Intelligence personnel were seen heavily deployed in all the four gates of the palace. Nepal Army and Armed Police personnel were carrying latest weapons made in the USA, Israel and Belgium.

A general understanding to implement republic among the major coalition political forces with their major role in Nepal's peace process was reached before the Constituent Assembly poll, which was successfully held on 10 April 2008.

As part of conflict management, the monarchist parties that ruled Nepal continuously for several years were compelled to accept the Maoist agenda of federal republic. Maoists had been conducting a 10 year-long armed insurgency against the feudal state structures. When King Gyanendra, now counted as the last king of Nepal, launched a coup d'état on 1 February 2005 by detaining political leaders and cutting off communication systems across the nation, the Nepalis delivered a final blow to the monarchy with a 19-day curfew-defying uprising in April 2006. During the uprising, the Nepalis, pouring in millions in the streets across the country, established the verdict of republic by completely rejecting the possibility of any sort of monarchy in Nepal. Since then, the major political parties have expressed their commitment and respect to this people's verdict.

As the Nepalis expressed their desire to celebrate the practical initiation of republic by holding a historic mass meeting in the complex of the palace, the government has banned gathering in any such sensitive areas. "If political parties

and people can't hold a mass meeting in the palace complex, it still is not people's victory. A real republic may yet to come," said Laxman Nath Sharma, a high school social studies teacher. Similarly, Rishi Kumar Bohara working as a security guard in Kathmandu wants to see an immediate difference in the republican Nepal. He says, "I've heard the present king has illegal properties worth billions. If the Nepal government can't nationalize them, there is no use of making Nepal republic."

When trying to understand the opinions of ordinary passers-by, some expressed their dissatisfaction over the anti-people attitude of the state. A boy who identified himself as Dhiraj said, "We ordinary people feel insecure. Ordinary people are killed or injured in bomb explosions. Big people are protected any way. Look, the King has been protected with a lot of state money while the people are dying hungry."

Despite such discontent expressed by people, there is another environment of celebrations going on throughout the nation. People of various ideological, age, economic and professional groups have taken out to the streets chanting the slogans "Republic Hi! Hi!; Monarchy Bye! Bye! Earlier today, human rights workers, journalists, lawyers, teachers and different other NGO activists supported republic and said goodbye to monarchy through their celebration rallies. They used their particular institutional banners and placards. But the government banned any gathering in the areas close by the Birendra International Conference Center where the first sitting of the recently elected Constituent Assembly is being held today. But spontaneously pouring people have not ceased to warn their leaderships that the implementation of republic must not be postponed at any cost. Today's first sitting of the Constituent Assembly is scheduled to declare the implementation of republic by formally abolishing monarchy. However, the parties have decided to give a deadline of 15 days for King Gyanendra to quit the palace for ever.

<https://www.groundreport.com/tibetan-protests-continue-in-kathmandu/>

TIBETAN PROTESTS CONTINUE IN KATHMANDU

jun 7, 2008 | politics, world

Tibetans demonstrated today in Kathmandu continuously for about an hour chanting anti-China slogans. Most of them were wearing vests on which was printed "Save Tibet".

The Tibetan protesters numbered about 120 while they were demonstrating at Durbar Margh, the heart of Kathmandu. About 50 policemen were deployed to contain their protests. Police detained more than 50 Tibetans this afternoon.

Three Western ladies also took part in the Tibetan protests. One of them said, "I'm not a Tibetan but I support their movement for democracy." A European lady immediately hired a taxi, got on it and began to take photos.

Because of the protest, the traffic system at Durbar Margh was disrupted for about an hour. Nepal has so far maintained her position of One-China policy according to which the Nepal government tries to control Tibetans' anti-China protests here but in vain. Tibetans have protested more than 60 times in Kathmandu from May 2006 till today.

As most of the Tibetan refugees in Nepal have received naturalized citizenships, it is difficult to estimate exactly how many Tibetan refugees live in Nepal. But some estimate the number to be nearly 20,000. Out of the number, only a few dozens have been protesting against China in Kathmandu from May 2006 to date.

<https://www.groundreport.com/bjp-vs-universal-declaration-of-human-rights/>

BJP VS. UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

jun 5, 2008 | politics, world

India must now explain to the world why it does nurture very fundamentalist, feudalist and de-humanizing forces tagged as political parties. The world has not been able to know why thousands of Dalits, known as so-called untouchables are tortured or killed in rural India every year. No one in the world does know why hundreds of Indian innocent women are killed in the name of dowry.

Just constitutional and paper commitments cannot prove the democratic nature of a country. We call India the largest democracy. But the realities there are different. Every fellow human being has the right to speak about the gross human rights violations going on in India. Because such realities affect the world politics and trends. Especially, South Asian neighbors will have to suffer a lot because of the generalization of criminal trends in India.

A democratic nation never imagines of interfering with other nations home affairs. Sovereignty is a key component as far as independence is concerned. Intentionally interfering with other nations' sovereignty is neither democratic in nature nor compatible with the basic norms of international relations.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has violated the basic norms of international norms on the one hand and it has undermined the very essence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on the other. Neither India as a whole nor Nepal as a whole has sensed this gross violation. The BJP, a fundamentalist, communalist party that does want to annihilate other faith communities in South Asia, has recently issued its anti-human rights verdict of not accepting the existence of other communities in Nepal where the formal end of feudal rule has just been declared by the recently elected constituent assembly heading towards restructuring Nepal through pluralist and inclusive political exercises.

As Nepal has, as per the human rights essence, decided to go for religious secularism, the BJP has given a sign of contributing to instability in Nepal by mobilizing its Nepal-based units in favor of Hinduist empire. The BJP said that it could not accept the former Maoist insurgents as the leading one among the major political forces since Maoists have some ideological similarities to Indian Naxalites. It has labeled the emergence of Maoists as the largest political force in Nepal as "not a good sign" for India. This shows the BJP's prejudices against changes in Nepal. What the BJP has failed to see is the positive impact of Nepal's peace process on Indian politics. They are making plans to resist changes in Nepal just because a new force is going to lead Nepal.

It is Nepalis' choice. They have elected Maoists as the leading force in Nepal because the Nepalis want to institutionalize progressive peace in the country by utilizing the potentialities that the former rebels have. As the BJP has seriously objected to the elected force trying to lead the next government in Nepal, it is a serious humiliation of the Nepalis' democratic choice.

Moreover, the BJP has urged New Delhi to polarize against the new force. This is an obvious threat to Nepal's sovereignty. However, Nepal's political parties have not clarified their own position on national sovereignty issues.

<https://www.groundreport.com/worlds-most-inclusive-elected-assembly/>

WORLD'S MOST INCLUSIVE ELECTED ASSEMBLY

jun 15, 2008 | politics, world

The Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Prachanda, inaugurating the Bhumya festival of the Magar community in Kathmandu said today that Nepal's recently elected constituent assembly is the most inclusive in the world. He said, "Our Constituent Assembly is the most inclusive in the world because almost all ethnic communities have been directly and proportionately elected here. Perhaps even the nations known as the 'most democratic' in the world do not have such an inclusive assembly."

He reminded the gathering of the fact that Nepal's current Constituent Assembly has the representation of almost all marginalized communities. According to him, this current achievement became possible due to the decade-long Maoist-led insurgency during which thousands died and 19-day historical April Movement aimed at the peace process.

Remembering how the anti-change parties had been undermining the Nepalis' armed insurgency, he said, "when the starved, the most suppressed and the deprived began their armed struggles against the feudal rule, other parties derogated them. Today they have seen the power of the people. The people have shown them by peacefully abolishing the monarchy and are on the path to bigger changes."

At the same time, he did not fail to warn other status-quoist and conspiring parties that if the elected Maoists are not allowed to serve people peacefully, the conspiring forces themselves will have to suffer the consequences.

At present, the Nepali Congress and the UML, who previously served the feudal monarchy, have been trying to stop Maoists from forming a new government. Maoists have got a clear majority mandated by the people.

<https://www.groundreport.com/60-dalit-families-displaced/>

60 DALIT FAMILIES DISPLACED

jun 27, 2008 | politics, world

Feudal lords in Sunsari district of Nepal have forcefully displaced almost Dalit families. Reports say these feudal lords are personal sympathizers of outgoing Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. The displaced landless and homeless people voted for Maoists in the 10-April Constituent Assembly poll. The Nepali Congress in the district lost its hold there as Maoists, including some racial parties, emerged as the latest forces. Outgoing Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was seriously hurt by his daughter Sujata's defeat in the the district, their place of origin.

Local sources based in Sunsari district say that feudal lords, backing feudal monarchy till the eve of republican declaration, have begun to take revenge against the working class people sympathizing with Maoists, the key forces in demonarchializing Nepal.

No reports of security actions against the oppressors have come in yet.

The major media houses have ignored this major anti-human rights.

<https://www.groundreport.com/head-of-state-prime-minister-defence-minister-and-party-president-four-in-one/>

HEAD OF STATE, PRIME MINISTER, DEFENCE MINISTER AND PARTY PRESIDENT: FOUR IN ONE

jun 23, 2008 | politics, world

Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, still suffering from regressive mindset, has not resigned even after 10 weeks of the Constituent Assembly poll. He has resisted the request from all other political parties to facilitate the formation of a post-poll government. Because of him, the constitution-drafting mission assigned by the people has already fallen behind.

Prime Minister Koirala, who did his utmost to preserve monarchy till 28 May 2008, is now demanding that he be the first president of Nepal. The Nepalis have been laughing at his power-mongering nature. He holds the posts of Head of the State, Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Party President at present.

In 1998, he promised to resign from his party presidentship while becoming the prime minister. Although he has become Nepal's prime minister several times, he has not resigned from party presidentship. He currently holds four salaried posts: Head of the State, Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Party President. He does not want to give any of those posts to anybody else. The Nepalis are familiar with his power addiction.

Although the 10-April Constituent Assembly poll has given a mandate for new leadership in the country, Prime Minister Koirala has declined to accept the elected leadership, i.e., Maoists who scored three times more than Koirala's party Nepali Congress.

Since the Nepalis, who have already experienced the rule of Nepali Congress Several times from 1992 to 2008, they no longer want to maintain it. The reason is clear: the government under the leadership of Nepali Congress has always worked for the elites and business tycoons and clearly against the working class people. State mechanisms under Nepali Congress leaderships work to strengthen smuggling, blackmarketing and other criminal networks while jeopardizing people's daily life. The world may have received distorted information about Nepal. Their opinion formation may not have taken place accurately. As the international community appears to have been dependent on the information disseminated by Nepal's elite media, they are likely to have been misinformed to a great extent. In this context, they may equally have been misinformed about Koirala under whose rule the majority of people have continuously suffered.

The April uprising of 2006 forced Koirala to side with the people in appearance. He has unwillingly signed in many documents. That is his contribution to the peace process. But his regressive mindset has always become a serious problem to his own personality. Koirala's leadership in the Nepali Congress has clearly proved this. His addiction to power is another problem that has not only victimized himself but also the people. Because of the problem of his political morality, his party, along with the nation, is suffering.

But Koirala is not the only problem. It would be unjust to say so. Other leaders within the Nepali Congress by following Koirala's footsteps have not been able to guide their party politics. They just became followers, not thinkers. They could not question Koirala at all. They just played the role of passive consent-givers.

Likewise, leaderships in other parties have not cooperated among themselves as well as expected. They have confined themselves to their own existence. They have paid little attention to the hardcore truth that a party's existence depends on how they work to improve people's daily life.

It has become quite indispensable for the political forces to accept the new reality and defeat the power monopolism of Koirala because democracy does not accept the idea of monopolism

<https://www.groundreport.com/experts-warn-parties/>

EXPERTS WARN PARTIES

jul 27, 2008 | politics, world

Prominent experts and civil society members have warned about the possible derailment of the ongoing peace process in Nepal should the Maoists, the largest after the Constituent Assembly poll, be prevented from forming the government.

Daman Nath Dhungana, advocate and the Chairman of the Peace and Conflict Management Committee said that there should be some kind of common minimum program to include the Maoists in the alliance government.

Another civil society member Nilambar Acharya, also a constituent assembly member and constitutional expert, said that the peace process would be successful only if a new constitution can be produced on the basis of the decade-long armed insurgency and 12-point agreement. Acharya also agreed on the need of a common minimum program for running a joint government.

Conflict and arms management expert, also a Constituent Assembly member, said that other parties were trying to isolate Maoists by forming a rightist alliance. He expressed the view that should the major political parties boycott the Maoists at this juncture, it will be extremely difficult to take the peace process to a logical end through the management of arms and People's Liberation Army.

<https://www.groundreport.com/first-vice-presidents-oath-scandal/>

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S OATH SCANDAL

jul 26, 2008 | politics, world

Blunder in Political Intention

Nationwide protests have continued even today, the fifth consecutive day, against Nepal's first Vice-President's oath-taking in Hindi. His refusal (BBC Nepali Service 26 July) to reconsider over this oath scandal is likely to sparkle more protests.

The First Vice-President Paramananda Jha did challenge the sovereignty of Nepal by make a blunder by choosing to take oath in India's official language. It may be a blunder in his political intention as well.

He had two better choices to follow as the first Vice-President: to take his oath either in the country's official language Nepali or in his own mother tongue Maithil. But he gave people a different impression by taking oath in Hindi. People can even question his political mission.

Many blunders in human life cannot be corrected. But the Vice-President Jha can correct this blunder on time: apologize to people and re-take oath either in Nepali or Maithil.

As far as consequences are concerned, the first vice-president may have to lose his prestigious post if he does not correct his blunder by learning a lesson from the ongoing nationwide protests against him.

Finally, it would be wiser for the Vice-President Jha to develop an attitude positive enough to impress the people that he represents the whole Nepal as the first Deputy-Head of the state.

<https://www.groundreport.com/normal-life-resumed-in-the-kathmandu-valley/>

NORMAL LIFE RESUMED IN THE KATHMANDU VALLEY

jul 29, 2008 | politics, world

The public life in the Kathmandu valley today was normal as eight student unions withdrew their strikes after the Supreme Court sought a written explanation from the first Vice-President Paramananda Jha on why he had to take oath in Hindi. Students had been protesting against Vice-President Jha for six days demanding his correction of oath-taking in Hindi but he had been defending himself.

The Supreme Court has asked Vice-President Jha to produce the written explanation within seven days. The court's decision came in response to the hearing on a case filed by advocate Bal Krishna Neupane who demanded the cancellation of the oath and re-doing it in Nepali. As part of sovereignty-related campaign, students, workers and civil society members had been protesting against Vice-President Jha. Public life was disrupted for six days due to frequent disturbances.

But all schools, colleges and factories worked today in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur. Usual hurly-burly in cities has resumed. No incidents of police-student clashes have been reported. However, the strikes in four Terai districts called by the students supporting the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum have troubled the public life in Parsa, Bara, Sirah and Saptari. They have reportedly called today's four-district strike as a reaction to an attempt of attack on the office of the MJF in Kathmandu yesterday. The police had shown their activeness in protecting the office.

<https://www.groundreport.com/south-asian-perspectives-on-global-terrorism/>

SOUTH ASIAN PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL TERRORISM

aug 5, 2008 | politics, world

Terrorism is a global concern, as elite world leaders have often stressed. No doubt it is. But perspectives to understand terrorism are different. This should be noted.

India frequently accuses Pakistan of harboring terrorism in an institutionalized manner. Pakistan frequently denies it.

The United States often accuses Iran of promoting terrorism. Iran defends itself.

The United States treats differently the countries with different ideologies.

Declaring war against UN members just because of differing ideologies cannot be considered democratic and human rights-friendly.

All those who differ from us must not be considered terrorists.

Leftists, who adopt all universal democratic principles and human rights obligations, cannot be considered terrorists since they accept the peaceful methods of politics. But barring them from the mainstream politics is forcing them to be violent.

In Nepal, previously ruling parties, who have often competed to be ultra-loyal to India and the US Administration, have not yet constructed any positive attitude towards the willingness of the ex-insurgents (Maoists) to join the mainstream peaceful politics.

After the Nepalis have elected Maoists as the largest party (beyond the expectation of status quoist parties that even did not want the constituent assembly), they have been deterred either from leading the government or remaining in the Opposition. D

There is a clear sign of war brokering in the Nepali politics. Ethical analysts should explain this well to the people.

In Nepal, former monarchists such as the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) are not mentally prepared to accept Maoists as the leading force. They want the ex-insurgents to remain in subordinate positions.

But the reality is opposite. Former monarchist parties, afraid of the seastorming people standing in favor of the Maoist agenda of the constituent assembly and the republic, accepted the Maoist agenda.

The agenda stimulated millions of working class people all over Nepal to participate in the democratic movement.

The Nepalis completely rejected the status quoists' demand to restore their power. The status quoist leaderships continuously kept on requesting the former king Gyanendra to restore their posts for 42 months. They requested the people to support them in the streets. But the people refused to support them for their selfish demands.

Instead, the people supported the Maoist insurgents. This shows how keen the Nepalis are for changes. Because of people's keen desire for serious changes, the April uprising became possible in 2006.

As the Maoists set the agenda of republic in the streets, the people wholeheartedly supported it since it was exactly what they wanted. The Maoist agenda and slogans controlled the streets of Nepal. This is how Maoists entered the peaceful politics.

Since people have promoted the Maoists as the largest and time-demanded political force through the 10-April Constituent Assembly poll, they saw the possibility of conducting their politics peacefully.

No army or armed police barracks have been destroyed for two years. This is the achievement of the peace process. Nepal's armymen and policemen have taken it positively and are happy for not having to fight.

But war brokers are not happy. They are trying to stage some events to revoke war in the country. Ethical politicians, whatever ideologies they follow, should be serious enough to understand the attempts of evil forces.

Multinational politicians, please don't terrorize the people. This is the basic method of fighting terrorism. Let people freely choose their leaderships in which they have much trust. Let no sovereignty be trodden upon. This helps anti-terrorism unity be stronger.

In South Asia, where Nepal is a neighbor, corruption is the greatest terrorist. It is a multiple crime. Corrupt leaders are above the constitution and their national laws.

In this region, those who set the greatest corruption records are more likely to reach power repeatedly.

They even manipulate media and float illusive information.

In this region, only ordinary people are punished. Mostly, innocent people, because they are made escape goats to save real culprits, are punished.

Law application mechanisms in South Asia are extremely corrupt. Good laws are made but are rarely implemented. Nevertheless, only law application mechanisms cannot be blamed.

There are other factors to consider in this regard. Top political leaderships are morally unreliable. They often deviate from their previous stance.

It is definite that the US Administration cannot take control of all the political parties of the world. It is not democratic to believe that all the nations must follow what a powerful nation wants. Only certain ruling groups may follow their external dictators. For example, South Asian elites, who gathered in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo from August 2-3, repeated the slogan "terrorism".

Although they gathered there in the name of SAARC Summit (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), they spoke the voice of the US Administration. They repeated the slogan of war brokers.

In fact, they don't know what terrorism is and how it originates. They are just parroting. This is ironical.

Terrorism develops out of mental virus.

It is true that terrorism is a reality. Short-term as well as long-term strategies are necessary to cope with this problem.

But before designing any strategies, it is equally essential to know the original producer of terrorism.

In reality, terrorism originates from human mind. Conflict is inherent in human nature. When we do not transform conflicts, small or big, they are converted into violence or explosion. Terrorism results from the long-term avoidance of conflicts.

Conflicts are not to be avoided. They are to be transformed positively for better changes in human society.

So-called superpowers are using their money, muscle and weapons to reduce terrorism. But they have failed to do so. The reason is clear: they do not spend their resources on lessening human pain but making it further acuter. This is how terrorism grows.

Perhaps South Asians require transformative political leaderships. The peoples in the region should first try to liberate themselves from the shackles of status quoism or conservatism.

People's struggles should be focused on establishing newer leaderships that can scientifically analyze political and socio-economic issues.

So long as power-mongers rule the peoples here, poverty will be further heightened and terrorism will grow.

South Asians require such political forces that can use politics as the science of people's power.

When rulers do not misguide and betray people, who will become terrorists?

Terrorism is also a product of political dishonesty. This is a research topic especially for political scientists.

A method of reducing terrorism could be not packing all leftists forces into the packet of Osama bin Laden. How can a people-elected force be a terrorist?

May the conscience of democracy messiahs function healthily!

<https://www.groundreport.com/hostile-responses-to-maoists-commitments-to-inclusive-multiparty-democracy/>

HOSTILE RESPONSES TO MAOISTS' COMMITMENTS TO INCLUSIVE MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY

aug 3, 2008 | politics, world

The Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist) through its 50-point Common Minimum Program (CMP) has expressed its commitments to the values of inclusive multiparty democracy. Tabling the CPM before the 25-party meeting held at Maoists' Parliamentary Board Office Saturday in Kathmandu, Maoist leaders sought support for making a post-CA poll government that people have been waiting for so long.

The CPN-Maoist has pledged to adhere to the UN principles of right to self-determination of indigenous people and other ethnic communities. The Maoist program states, "proportional inclusion will be guaranteed to women, dalits, indigenous people, Madhesis and backward regions in all organs and levels of the state."

Competitive democracy, human rights and social justice are other special commitments the program pledges to abide by.

Forming a state-restructuring commission and safeguarding national sovereignty are the other vitals of the Maoist program.

Giving a preliminary comment, Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) leader K. P. Sharma Oli has said that his party would not join the Maoist-led government. Differing from Oli's views, the General Secretary of the same party, Jhalanath Khanal said that a government without Maoists' involvement in it would be futile though he ruled out the possibility of a single party minority government. But another UML leader Bishnu Poudel said that Maoists' behavior was not yet improved for other parties to cooperate with it.

Commenting on the proposed Maoist program, Nepali Congress (NC) leader Arjun Narsing K.C. said that no party would be compelled to accept it.

The NC so far has not shown any interest in joining the proposed Maoist-led government for subordinate positions while the UML has been bargaining more powerful posts such as Home Affairs, Defence and Finance.

In the program they proposed before the other 24 parties, large and small, Maoists have mentioned three alternatives for ending the current political deadlock. According to their presented draft, their first priority is to form a government under their own leadership with the involvement of other parties. If national consensus of this type does not become possible, their second alternative is to form a majority government by taking some other parties into confidence. If the second option fails, they would even try as the third alternative to form a minority government under their leadership. Should their third option fail too, they would be ready to remain in the Opposition while cooperating for drafting a new constitution.

Whether Maoists will really be able to form a new government under their leadership is likely to be concretized after the caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala returns from Sri Lanka through New Delhi, where he is believed to have some informal discussions with Indian leaders on Nepal's political dilemma.

However, both the UML and the NC appear in a vague state regarding their decision whether to join the Maoist-led government. They have rather made rather hostile comments on the Maoist concept paper.

Nonpartisan analysts believe that bargaining among parties will cause further delay in the government formation.

<https://www.groundreport.com/saarc-summit-stuck-to-status-quoism/>

SAARC SUMMIT STUCK TO STATUS QUOISM

jul 31, 2008 | opinion, world

The 15th SAARC Summit due to be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo from August 1-3 will definitely be a ritual practice as it has for 23 years. The reason is clear: no new leadership change has occurred to replace the corrupt and change-resisting ruling cliques in the SAARC member countries.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), consisting of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, India and Bhutan, was set up in 1985 with a good vision of making South Asia a prosperous and democratically civilized region.

Things opposite the vision have happened: only ruling class members and their affiliates have become prosperous while the majority have grown needy. Instead of getting democratically civilized, the South Asian politics has grown wilder and massacre-oriented. Again, the reason is apparent: resistance against change options and forceful maintenance of status quoism.

Despite a good vision, every SAARC Summit has been an elite gathering that periodically attempts to quell mass discontent in the South Asian countries through renewed paper commitments and declarations.

However, commitments and declarations repainted every Summit have not but substantially damaged peoples' belief in the ways South Asian democracy functions.

South Asian democracy tightly held by elitists, status quoists and feudal war lords has been highly miscultured in the form of man-hunt-man enterprise that gives impetus to anarchy and ultra-individualism.

The growing anarchy and ultra-individualism in South Asia have put human rights at apparent risks. In this region, political leaders, insensitive towards mass sufferings, illicitly amass wealth and shamelessly lie to their peoples.

Moreover, most of the South Asian countries have been going through political instability for several decades. Their political exercises have generally been degenerated to the level of family quarrels.

Unforgettable in the South Asian politics is the growing criminalization of political mindset. The political nexus with international smuggling and criminal networks, as analysts believe, has heightened impunity to an alarming level.

Although South Asian elite rulers have been talking about terrorism in their recent Summits, they have never been able to say what terrorism is and how to combat it. They have appeared to have copied the Pentagon rhetoric as far as their speeches about terrorism are concerned.

In fact, South Asian elite rulers have mostly been terrorized by the change-seeking voices of the working class people, who are the greatest terrorists' to them.

As the working class people are the greatest 'terrorists' to the South Asian ruling classes, they agree to unite against the working class voices that demand human rights and democracy.

Thus, SAARC Summit is stuck to status quoism as the establishments are against genuine changes. They work to change their own lives better.

However, South Asian peoples can learn enough to generate and culture transformative leaderships capable of changing peoples' lives better. This is a positive potential with the South Asian masses.

<https://www.groundreport.com/maoist-prime-minister-takes-oath-of-office-in-the-name-of-people/>

MAOIST PRIME MINISTER TAKES OATH OF OFFICE IN THE NAME OF 'PEOPLE'

aug 19, 2008 | politics, world

Maoist chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal, alias Prachanda took oath of Office and Secrecy as Prime Minister of Nepal, in the name of 'People' of Nepal

and not in the name of God as is the practice, in general, world over. Prachanda is a Christian by birth. Secondly, he wore suit instead of Nepali national costume-Daura Suruwal.

Ambassadors from India, China, US, Russia, Japan and UN representative Ian Martin were among the diplomats present at the oath taking ceremony. Among others, Vice-President Parmanand Jha, Chief Justice Kedar Prasad Giri and constituent Assembly Chairman Subash Chandra Newang were also present at the ceremony apart from the entire family of Prachanda. However former premier Girija Prasad Koirala was conspicuous by his absence.

After taking oath of office from President Ram Baran Yadav, the 54-year old Maoist expressed his intention to set new standards in Nepal. Prachanda would be moving to China soon to attend closing in ceremony of Olympics.

He is likely to give a courtesy visit to Chinese leadership, who would be obviously pleased to meet a staunch follower of Chairman Mao-Tse-Tung, the great Chinese leader who still inspires lot of people over the world. This will also be sort of a deviation as all of his predecessors made a beeline for India after taking oath, in the past.

After the oath taking was over a smiling Prachanda escorted by his Maoist security guards, met the ambassadors in his new office and said, "The peace process has to be taken to its logical conclusion and my first priority would be to frame a new constitution for Nepal.

Earlier in the day, Prachanda presided over the central committee meeting of his party and announced that he would restrict his cabinet to 20 members with five portfolios going to the major constituent of the coalition.

<https://www.groundreport.com/premier-prachanda-to-be-heavily-guardedwhat-next/>

PREMIER PRACHANDA TO BE HEAVILY GUARDED:WHAT NEXT?

aug 17, 2008 | politics, world

The Nepal Army (NA) has immediately decided to mobilize 150 soldiers led by Lt. Colonel Arun Pal for the security of the newly elected Prime Minister Prachanda at his official residence at Baluwatar.

It is not known if the security chiefs have consulted the newly elected premier before taking this decision .It is also not known who inspired the security mechanisms to take this immediate decision.

But some Maoist sources on condition of anonymity said that there is fear that the mass-oriented top Maoist leader may be isolated from people if he is kept in a heavily guarded custody-styled environment.

The sources express their concern that rural masses may develop negative perceptions towards premier Prachanda as he is more likely to lose direct access to people. During the 10-year insurgency, Prachanda, as he recalls it, stayed with villagers.

His access to people declined during the two-year peace process because he has been staying in Kathmandu since then.

The sources also disclosed that Maoist cadres prefer the combined mobilization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) with the NA for Prachanda's security.

Premier Prachanda, while addressing a mass meeting in Kathmandu in March 2008, had said that his murder was being attempted. However, he was not able to give details.

<https://www.groundreport.com/international-community-welcomes-maoist-premier-prachanda/>

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WELCOMES MAOIST PREMIER PRACHANDA

aug 15, 2008 | politics, world

Indian Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh, the US Administration, the European Union, and Japan have welcomed Nepal's Maoist ex-rebel commander Prachanda immediately after he was elected as the country's first prime minister the abolition of the 240-year monarchy.

They congratulated him and expressed their belief that the bilateral relations would be better in his tenure.

Indian Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh said that he was eager to work with Prachanda to improve the Indo-Nepal relations. He expressed his interest in meeting Prachanda as soon as possible.

US, European Union and Japanese officials also expressed their support to Prachanda and believed that Nepal would be better under his dynamic leadership.

Prachanda, the Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist), with the help of two other parties, defeated the Nepali Congress prime ministerial candidate Sher Bahadur Deuba by 351 more votes.

Prachanda obtained 464 votes against the 113 votes secured by Sher Bahadur Deuba.

The Nepali Congress that ruled Nepal for many years did not want to join the national government under the former rebel leadership. The old and conservative party wanted to maintain its traditional rule, mostly opposed by the working class people of the country.

Many think Prachanda does not have an easy time as prime minister because Nepal has fallen into anarchy, ill-governance, all-pervasive corruption and criminalization of politics with political nexus with criminal gangs and networks).

However, should the nation go ahead with the responsibility of drafting a new federal republican constitution and bringing about qualitative approaches for the nation's socio-economic transformation, the nation is likely to amaze the world within a decade.

The Nepalis are equally watchful against any foreign interference because of the country's geopolitical sensitivity.

<https://www.groundreport.com/undesired-apprehension-in-neighborly-relations/>

UNDESIED APPREHENSION IN NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS

aug 27, 2008 | opinion, world

It is very unfortunate that Nepal's democratically elected Prime Minister Prachanda had to give a piece of shameful explanation to media as soon as he landed at the airport after a four-day visit to China.

Due to Nepal's internal political dilemma, neither the head of the state nor the head of the government was able to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics where heads of states and governments of more than 80 countries attended.

Even US President George Bush was one of the prominent guests at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics.

But Indian leaders had indirectly advised Nepal's government head Prachanda not to prefer to visit China over India, diplomatic sources confirm.

This diffused information has really made the Nepalis serious about their very independence and sovereignty.

Prachanda, upon arrival from China yesterday, explained that his visit to China was quite informal though he met Chinese President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao with whom he shared about changes in Nepal. Talking to journalists at the airport, he said that his first visit of political nature would be to India.

What Prime Minister Prachanda said regarding his China visit was something that could undermine Nepal's sovereignty. He should immediately make clear that he is not undermining people's dignity.

If Indian leaderships think so narrowly as to Nepal's natural right to maintain friendly and neighborly relations with China, this is not Nepal's problem. Why should Nepal's prime minister justify to India about his visit to China?

Similarly, Indian leaderships should also make clear that Nepali head of the state or the government need not take any permission from India before visiting China or any other country.

Moreover, it is vital for India to be free from the colonialist mentality imposed upon them by the British.

<https://www.groundreport.com/new-government-vs-old-mechanisms/>

NEW GOVERNMENT VS. OLD MECHANISMS

sep 2, 2008 | politics, world

The Nepalis abolished the feudal monarchy through their long struggles. The armed insurgency led by the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist), many believe, was instrumental in cutting off the rural roots of feudal monarchy. The 19-day curfew-defying mass uprising in April 2006 across the country with heavy national and, international media coverage was not less significant as regards the people's success in abolishing the feudal monarchy.

Above all, the Nepalis, tremendous aspirations for political and socio-economic transformation coupled with their highly explosive frustrations played a vital role in delivering the most knock blow to the feudal rule.

A prominent media role in mobilizing millions of people against autocratic forces was noted during April uprising days.

However, no feudal structures were dismantled after the official feudal rulers were toppled by the people's political torrents. No illegal properties, including billions of cash, amassed by the comprador-feudal ruling elites were seized by the interim government.

The major political parties remained divided as to what how and how to do to replace the feudal regime.

Indeed, the major political parties were in what-to-do position.

Needless to talk about other political parties, the Maoist leaderships themselves appeared to have no homework as to what to do after the abolition of monarchy. It meant that they had not imagined their ascending to power so soon.

As the Maoists lead the current coalition government, they will have to face many resistance struggles representing not only various small pressure groups but also various disguised counterrevolutionary forces that are disadvantaged due to changed contexts.

The greatest barriers to any transformation-oriented policy formulation and implementation will result the existing feudal state mechanisms that baffle the most revolutionary forces.

The major political parties have not changed the leaderships in the state mechanisms. They have been working with monarchist and status quo state mechanisms.

Surprisingly, no changes have been made in judiciary and law application mechanisms.

Other constitutional mechanisms that were extremely favorable for the autocratic regime function even today the way they did before.

Many expect that the newly formed government led by Maoist Chairman Prachanda will cautiously think whether to maintain old mechanisms.

Meanwhile, influential Maoist leader Mohan Baidya (Kiran) has expressed his view that Maoists are not in power though Maoist Chairman is leading the government. He alluded to the existing feudal mechanisms to be replaced by democratic and progressive mechanisms.

<https://www.groundreport.com/inject-new-dynamism-into-relations-joint-statement/>

INJECT NEW DYNAMISM INTO RELATIONS: JOINT STATEMENT

sep 18, 2008 | politics, world

Nepal and India have agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other agreements with a view to consolidating and expanding the multi-faceted and deep-rooted relationships between the two countries in a forward-looking manner to better reflect the current realities.

Nepali Prime Minister Prachanda and his Indian counterpart have revealed this understanding in a joint statement published on Wednesday.

Both the leaders have agreed on “the need to inject new dynamism into the relations between the two countries for a forward looking change in tune with the

realities of the time as well as the wishes and aspirations of the people of both the countries.”

The joint statement also states that India has agreed to provide an immediate relief of Rs.200 million for Koshi flood victims in Nepal.

Both the countries have agreed to co-work on megaprojects, especially on hydropower, including development infrastructures.

While in New Delhi, Prime Minister Prachanda had urged Indian investors to confidently invest in Nepal. Formalizing this urge, the joint statement states, “The Nepalese side informed that Government of Nepal will take further necessary measures for the promotion of investor-friendly, enabling business environment to encourage Indian public and private sector investments in Nepal.”

Percussions of the Indo-Nepal understanding reached during Prachanda’s visit to India are yet to be heard in Nepal.

Prime Minister Prachanda has returned home on Thursday after his four-day visit to India.

<https://www.groundreport.com/koirala-to-fight-against-maoists-dominance-in-the-country/>

KOIRALA TO FIGHT AGAINST MAOISTS’ DOMINANCE IN THE COUNTRY

oct 1, 2008 | politics, world

Nepali Congress President and former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has pledged to fight against Maoists’ dominance in Nepal.

He disclosed his mind on Wednesday before flying to Biratnagar, his home town. He also claimed that he has three latest agenda: fighting against Maoists’ dominance, consolidating the Nepali Congress and ascertaining the functioning of democratic constitution.

Recently very aggressive against the Maoist leadership in the current coalition government, Koirala said that his party would not imagine of joining a

government led by Maoists. However, he said he and his party would not be engaged in toppling the government.

He further said, “Nepali Congress will support the government so long as it upholds the democratic norms and values.”

Koirala, along with other leaders, has already revealed his opinion against the integration of the Nepal Army and the People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

<https://www.groundreport.com/should-sher-bahadur-deuba-instigate-anti-peace-process-entrepreneurs/>

SHOULD SHER BAHADUR DEUBA INSTIGATE ANTI-PEACE PROCESS ENTREPRENEURS?

oct 23, 2008 | opinion, world

Senior Nepali Congress leader and ex-Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has expressed his view that it would be irrational to assist Maoists to draft a new constitution in Nepal. Does Sher Bahadur Deuba still possess a regressive mindset loyal to monarchy? Why does he feel necessary to stand for those who do not want a new constitution?

Previously notorious for brutal suppression of people’s peaceful demonstrations in which dozens died during the 1990s, Deuba even worked as the pre-coup prime minister under King Gyanendra, who staunchly believed the 10-year Maoist insurgency across Nepal was a purely terrorist mission carried out by a few criminals.

Because of his special loyalty to monarchy, Deuba even dissolved the House of Representatives in 2001. However, he could not perceive what the insurgency was in its essence. He failed in perception and behavior.

After Deuba failed in suppressing people across the country, King Gyanendra humiliatingly sacked and scolded him.

After the historical April uprising that abolished feudal monarchy from people’s minds and hearts, Deuba became more helpless. To gain some power, he united with his archrival Girija Koirala from whom he had separated in 2001.

The people's uprising in which even Maoist guerrillas and supporters peacefully participated, was considered the fusion of the armed insurgency and the peaceful urban movement.

After 19-day nationwide curfews daily defied by millions of people, who chanted slogans of republic, King retreated from his direct rule at the advice of USA, European Union and India on April 24, 2006.

Maoist insurgents continued their ceasefire. When they signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006 with seven major political parties, the principal stakeholders in the peace process, they formally entered the mainstream peace process.

This was a great achievement for the Nepalis, who had been suffering from the bloody civil war in the country.

As the bedrock of the peaceful management of the Maoist insurgency, the Nepalis adopted the approach of the constituent assembly to formally decide on the future of monarchy. As far as people are concerned, they had already abolished monarchy from the streets. However, they needed to adopt a formal procedure for declaring the end of monarchy and replacing it with a new republican constitution for the country's restructuring.

But this approach was not practically tolerable for individual leaders like Sher Bahadur Deuba. For the sake of appearing democratic and progressive, he pronounced the constituent assembly, but he was against it in practice. Therefore, he was still advocating for army mobilization against Maoists, who have already entered the mainstream peace process.

Why did Deuba demand for the mobilization of the national army against the ex-rebel political party whose guerrillas and arms are still in the UN-monitored cantonments? This question deserves a serious investigation.

Maoists have now realized that their armed insurgency has made people aware of required changes. They have also realized that their war activities have generated newer problems that have troubled them now even while they have been exercising peaceful politics. They admit that war was not good and that they want to avoid it.

Because of Maoists' willpower for changes in the ill-governed and criminalized country, people elected Maoists as the largest political force in April 2008. They sought an alternative in Maoists.

It is said that arms smugglers and brokers are active everywhere in the world. As it is their profession, it would not be irrelevant to believe that they seek to build up a war environment for promoting their arms business.

Are such arms smugglers and brokers active in Nepal too? Well, their presence can be felt but cannot be seen because they do not introduce themselves exactly.

As Sher Bahadur Deuba, at least has become a leader affiliated to a democratic party Nepali Congress, he cannot be expected to instigate such felt but unseen arms smugglers and brokers. This is what the Nepalis can expect before the new constitution is drafted to sustain peace and distribute equitable justice.

<https://www.groundreport.com/maoist-political-worker-killed-in-dhading/>

MAOIST POLITICAL WORKER KILLED IN DHADING

oct 19, 2008 | politics, world

According to reports from Dhading district adjacent to Kathmandu, fighters organized under the banner of Youth Force affiliated to the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) murdered a Maoist party worker.

Krishna Bahadur Bhandari, the victim, was thrown into the Trisuli river on Sunday, reports say.

Following the murder, the situation in villages as well as on the Prithvi Highway has got tense, say Kathmandu-based FM stations.

It is learnt that initially the UML cadres and Maoist workers did have a clash in Baireni village.

Local people arose in angry protests against the murder of the political worker.

Maoists, who have lost more than 200 cadres after they entered the mainstream peace process in 2006, head the current coalition government after the people elected them as the largest political party of Nepal.

The UML is one of the coalition partners in the current Maoist-led government mandated for facilitating the process of drafting a new federal democratic republican constitution to replace the monarchy abolished on May 28.

<https://www.groundreport.com/man-killed-in-the-name-of-sorcerer/>

MAN KILLED IN THE NAME OF SORCERER

oct 14, 2008 | politics, world

One person has been murdered in Nepal's far western district Kanchanpur in the name of sorcerer.

According to Kanchanpur district police, Kaliram Chaudhari, 40, of Sripur Ultan village has been killed on Saturday night.

Kaliram Chaudhari's wife has been injured in the incident. She is undergoing treatment at a primary health center in the village.

Police has reportedly arrested eight of the specified persons known to have been involved in the murder crime.

The police have arrested Harichan Rana, 25, of Shankarpur village, Saheb Rana, 26, Khusiram Rana, 23, Shankar Rana, 20, Sukuram Rana, 23, Sancha Rana 30, Rana Bahadur Chaudhari, 20, Kamala Rana, 45.

While other villagers were celebrating Dashain, these persons went to Kaliram Chaudhari's house and murdered him by accusing him of being a sorcerer.

<https://www.groundreport.com/dalits-not-allowed-to-use-public-taps/>

DALITS NOT ALLOWED TO USE PUBLIC TAPS

oct 13, 2008 | politics, world

Reports from western district Rukum of Nepal says so-called high caste people have not allowed 25 Dalit families at Balle village in the district to use public taps for collecting drinking water.

"We are not allowed to use public taps set up in the courtyards of Brahmins and Chhetris," Sumita BK said. "Therefore, I have to travel several hours more to fetch drinking water though the public taps are just beside my home," she regretted.

At the request of the Dalit community, the local governance body District Development Committee had arranged 32 public taps in the village. However, non-Dalits have monopolized them barring the Dalit community from using them because of caste differences.

Another Dalit family member Thalbir Sunar said that he and other Dalits get frequent threats if they try to use the public taps set up in the courtyards of so-called high caste villagers who enjoy discriminating Dalits as so-called untouchable castes.

Sunar angrily added, "I was the one who took initiatives for the installation of so many public taps in the village, but the government installed them in the courtyards of Brahmins and Chhetris, and they banned us from using them."

According to Nepal's law on caste discrimination, anybody who does not let another fellow citizen to use public services in the name of untouchable or lower caste can be fined up to Rs.3000.00.

There are no records of the implementation of this law. Consequently, the discrimination has continued unhindered.

In India and Nepal founded on Hindu caste hierarchy, Dalits are treated as non-human beings despite the legal provisions of equality in both the countries.

<https://www.groundreport.com/dark-festival-of-lights/>

DARK FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS?

oct 29, 2008 | politics, world

While the Nepalis have been celebrating a dark festival of lights due to scheduled loadshedding, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has warned that the power systems might collapse throughout Nepal should there be over-consumption of electricity during the Tihar, the festival of lights.

It is learnt that even those areas where there is no loadshedding may remain dark due to failure of the systems. The NEA has estimated the festival consumption of electricity to be around 700 megawatt.

Sher Singh Bhatt, the Director of the Load Transmission Center warns that transformers may burst and create nationwide darkness. If the power systems collapse, it may take long time to restore them, according to the NEA.

However, it is not known how long it exactly takes to restore the collapsed systems.

The NEA authority's warning is serious. Communications systems and all production industries will also collapse if power systems collapse nationwide for a long time.

However, scientific analysis of this warning is required to detect its validity as well as latent motives.

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-secretary-general-addressed-the-ca/>

UN SECRETARY GENERAL ADDRESSED THE CA

nov 1, 2008 | politics, world

Addressing a special meeting of the Constituent Assembly (CA) on November 1 2008, at the CA Hall in New Baneshwor, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said, "This is the phase where all the stake holders should unite and work together in entailing the peace process adapting political and social transformation. The most immediate challenge ahead is to integrate and rehabilitate Maoist combatants where necessary support would be provided from the UN."

"In this regard, the recent establishment of a special committee to supervise, integrates and rehabilitates Maoist army combatants are indeed, a step head. I encourage the parties represented on the committee to ensure that it begins its work as soon as possible. I also call on the government to move quickly on the formal discharge of minors and disqualified combatants. I wish to assure my

personal support and that of the entire UN system for Nepal's political, economic and social transition," added he. Regarding the new constitution, he said, "It must be drafted as soon as possible. It is difficult as well as rewarding which would address number of controversial issues; you owe this to your people as they need to see improvements in governance. Moreover, federal state that empowers different ethnic groups need to be developed identifying unity where all parties should honor their commitments to peace process respecting the rules of democratic government and human rights." "The people need to feel the benefits of a peace. They need better access to employment opportunities, health care and education with improvements in governance reaching the Millennium Development Goals and address the problems of climate change," asserted he. Ban arrived in Nepal on 31 October where he met President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Constituent members, former Prime Minister Gija Prasad Koirala etc.

<https://www.groundreport.com/lunaticization/https://www.groundreport.com/lunaticization/>

LUNATICIZATION?

nov 20, 2008 | opinion, world

Culture of dominance is the chief factor behind the conflagration of conflicts in human society.

Dominant forces remain silent and patient so long as there is one-sided dominance. Conflicts, inherent in human nature, get highlighted as soon as dominant forces become either parallel or near-competitors.

This thing, not new to the world, has happened in Nepal too.

While monolithic Nepali rulers had been able to rule millions of people by enslaving them psychologically, they remained relaxed as they did not have to face considerable resistance.

However Nepal's monolithic rulers gradually began to face sleepless nights since 1990 when the long-enslaved Nepalis began to explore democracy and human rights.

Within a half-decade after the termination of partyless autocratic Panchayat rule, the Nepalis gradually realized that they suffered from betrayal as there were no structural changes.

The Nepalis' democratic exploration after 1990 opened up horizons for them. Consequently, the monolithic ruling class had to face offensives.

After the formal abolition of monarchical system, the proposed federal democratic republican constitution going to be drafted has a clear purpose of creating multi-ethnic and multi-cultural structures for people's equal access to development opportunities.

With the promulgation of such a new constitution, the monolithic ruling class, despite their living influence, will lose their unparalleled dominance since long.

This fear of losing their unparalleled long-standing dominance, they currently appear lunaticizing their dependents and sympathizers.

They appear to have a hope for regaining their lost control before the institutionalization of changes adopted so far.

During volatile months or years, reversal of the ongoing peace process in Nepal still remains a threat should change-chanting political forces think and act in a way that nourishes the monolithic ruling class, currently psychologically abnormal.

Psychologically abnormal beings may cause damages beyond imagination.

<https://www.groundreport.com/indian-police-involved-in-collective-robbery-at-banbasa/>

INDIAN POLICE INVOLVED IN COLLECTIVE ROBBERY AT BANBASA

nov 12, 2008 | politics, world

Indian police in the areas bordering Western Nepal are reported to have been involved in massive robbery against Nepali workers, who return to Nepal from India.

According to BBC Nepali Service, dozens of Nepali workers have complained of atrocities by Indian police in the frontiers.

According to reports, Indian police abduct Nepali workers, loot all their earnings and torture them ruthlessly. Some workers even complained that Indian police abducted women while they severely beat and looted men.

Indian police at Indo-Nepal border at Banbasa are reported to have accused Nepali workers of being “Maoist terrorists.”

Meanwhile local inhabitants in Dhangadhi have expressed a high level discontent at the indifference so far the Nepali government has maintained to Indian police terrorism.

As the criminal actions of the Indian police in the border areas appear politically motivated, political forces of both Nepal and India need to pay urgent attention to this issue.

<https://www.groundreport.com/dna-test-reveals-burnt-bone-pieces-belong-to-male-persons-detained-and-disappeared/>

DNA TEST REVEALS BURNT BONE PIECES BELONG TO MALE PERSONS-DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED

dec 17, 2008 | politics, world

Nepal's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) today revealed that skeletons discovered one year ago at the Shivapuri area controlled by the Nepal Army have been identified as bones of male persons.

The DNA test of the skeletons was held in Finland. The results came one year after the discovery of the skeletons that were found in the jungle area of the Shivapuri where the Nepal Army has had its permanent camps and control.

According to the NHRC, one soldier of the Bhairabnath Barrack had supplied the secret information that detained persons, including Maoists, were massacred inside the Shivapuri Jungle.

So far, more than 5,000 people have disappeared, informal sources claim. However, the NHRC says about 1,000 people still remain disappeared.

The concerned families have been demanding for the disclosure of this or that information about the status of their family members and relatives.

The concerned DNA specialists, according to the NHRC, are interested in further investigation for more details.

Former Maoist rebels, who complain thousands of their party cadres and supporters were disappeared by the then state, now lead the six-party coalition government.

<https://www.groundreport.com/khanal-accuses-nepali-congress-of-trying-to-disrupt-constitution-writing/>

Khanal accuses Nepali Congress of trying to disrupt constitution-writing

Dec 19, 2008 [|Politics](#), [World](#)

General Secretary of the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) Jhalanath Khanal on Friday accused the Nepali Congress (NC) of trying to disrupt the process of drafting the long-awaited new constitution.

Referring to the violent protests that the NC has announced through its student wing against the current Maoist-led government, Khanal said that it would not be necessary for a democratic party to launch a violent movement when all democratic forces need to contribute to the institutionalization and consolidation of the post-monarchy democracy.

Opening a sports event organized by his party's youth wing in Kathmandu, he expressed his concern over why the NC does not cooperate with the republican forces.

On Thursday, the NC disrupted the meeting of the Constituent Assembly demanding the return of properties seized by Maoists during the insurgency period. However, Maoists say most of those highlighting the issue of returning seized properties are those politically propagandizing it.

The Constituent Assembly has already announced that different committees recently formed would now commence the drafting of the new constitution.

Many doubt the success in completing the draft within the stipulated time—17 months from now—if the NC, the second largest party in the House, now outside of the coalition government, continuously disrupts House procedures and sessions.

<https://www.groundreport.com/in-kathmandu-untouchable-is-nearly-killed-after-trying-to-sell-land/>

IN KATHMANDU, ‘UNTOUCHABLE’ IS NEARLY KILLED AFTER TRYING TO SELL LAND

dec 20, 2008 | politics, world

Bhairab Pant and his youngest son Yekdesb Pant of Matatirtha village ward no. 5 in Kathmandu district on December 18 assaulted Krishna Nepali of the same village.

Victim Krishna Nepali has been admitted to the Kathmandu Medical College (KMC) Teaching Hospital at Sinamangal. Initial medical reports indicate the hypo-abdominal trauma with possible blood accumulation and pressure.

According to the information this reporter obtained late from the victim’s family, Bhairab Pant had vowed to take a tough action against Krishna about four years ago as Krishna asserted his basic freedom to sell a piece of his own land to a person of his choice rather than to the person that Bhairab chose. Family sources claim that Bhairab had time and again expressed his wrath against Krishna since he dared to dispute that he had the freedom to decide his personal matters himself.

Victim’s wife Dhana says, “My husband does not have any bad records so far. He sold a piece of land to a different person ignoring the choice of Bhairab. That is the main cause of his enmity with my husband.”

In Nepal, Dalits, despite constitutionally defined as equal, face assaults and even deaths if they assert any fundamental freedom or human dignity.

The state has not developed any mechanism to punish those who kill or attempt to kill Dalits for asserting rights or freedom as equal beings. The laws on atrocities against Dalits remain completely non-implemented.

Dalits fear serious consequences when they dare to file any case for justice because they complain that the state has rarely supported and encouraged them.

Bhairab Pant and his son are reported fled to escape legal actions. Victim Krishna's family says they don't have an idea of seeking justice and that they are extremely demoralized.

They are worried about the medical expenses and future security.

In Kathmandu, hospital treatment is too expensive for the working class people to afford.

<https://www.groundreport.com/edmund-hillary-a-nepali-remembrance/>

EDMUND HILLARY: A NEPALI REMEMBRANCE

jan 11, 2008 | opinion, world

When the global media disseminated the news on the death of Sir Edmund Hillary on 11 January, the Nepalis immediately realized that they lost a senior historical and philanthropic friend. The Nepalis have long known him as their acquaintance because he was able to reach the summit of the Mount Everest along with the Nepali guide Tenzing Norgay Sherpa in 1953. He remained a veteran friend of Nepalis.

The Nepalis, no doubt, were impressed by Hillary's Everest-like human morality of contributing to the upliftment of poor Nepalis. Mingma Sherpa, a trekking guide says, "We lost a true friend today. He had been our close relation through the Mount Everest." Similarly, Basu Raj Shakya, an English language teacher in Kathmandu comments on Hillary's death as 'a dignified death'. He was of the opinion that Hillary further heightened his dignity not only through the mountaineering expedition but also through his social work dedicated to the

wellbeing of the Sherpas of the Himalayas, who have been fighting for their basic needs.

In the northern Nepal where Sherpas are part of the Nepali population, Hillary has contributed to Nepal's social advancement by establishing several schools and hospitals.

In a sense, Hillary physically died and humanistically continued living. His earlier adventurism led him to the deeper perception of the Sherpa community life. The peak of the Mount Everest definitely demonstrated his human-focus approach of mountaineering.

Modern mountaineers can learn a lesson that mountaineering is not a mere business of adventure and obtaining lucrative opportunities. It is a journey of reaching a certain geographical height from where mountaineers can also adventure upscaling their mental and spiritual height. It simply means reaching the summit is part of life victory while reaching the summit of humanity is the whole victory. Perhaps, Hillary was advancing towards reaching the summit of humanity but his physical man vanished suddenly though his original man will continue to live not only in New Zealand, Nepal, America and Great Britain but in the globe and global minds interconnected by communication technologies.

Almost all mainstream and alternative Nepali media gave the news about Hillary's death. This shows how much importance the Nepalis have given to what Hillary had been doing for Nepal's cause.

Hillary's work can set an example for other mountaineers for doing something to conquer the evil mountains of poverty and illiteracy.

<https://www.groundreport.com/school-bombed-by-terrorists-at-indo-nepal-border-area/>

SCHOOL BOMBED BY TERRORISTS AT INDO-NEPAL BORDER AREA

jan 1, 2008 | opinion, world

A terrorist cum robbery group has exploded a bomb at a high school in Birgunj, a city bordering India. According to Parsa police, there has been little damage to the school. No human casualties have been reported.

Although the intention behind this explosion at Jyoti Secondary School is not known, local people have estimated the cause to be of communal nature. The group that identifies itself as JTMM has reportedly claimed for the explosion. The group is manned both by Indian and Nepali robbers, who have been committing robberies at night for several years in the Terai. However, it claims it is a political group though it has never published any kind of political manifesto or any related literature containing its agenda, vision or goal. Nobody in Nepal knows what this group stands for. But in practice, the people in the Terai region have understood the group to be a gang of criminals since the group has already killed hundreds of innocent people for nothing and has looted properties worth millions.

JTMM has been murdering innocent people of the hilly origin in Nepal. It says it accepts the existence of only the people of Indian origin. This racist group has specialized in killing, robberies and kidnapping. Nevertheless, the Nepal government has not adopted any serious measure for necessary control. The current Nepal government is constitutionally the most powerful government in the history of Nepal. It has already constitutionalized the idea of republic in the country by abolishing the 239-year old monarchy in paper. However, it has not immediately implemented the declaration of republic.

The Nepalis even doubt the moral integrity of Nepal's security apparatuses as crimes have been openly multiplying in the Indo-Nepal border areas where both Indian and Nepali criminals are so active.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepali-prime-ministers-secret-compromise-with-ex-king/>

Nepali Prime Minister's Secret Compromise with Ex-King

Jun 4, 2008 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Post Vs Political Decency

Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has not resigned even after the Nepalis gave Maoists a mandate through the 10 April constituent assembly poll for heading the next government. A dispute as to who to head the next government is still going on among the three major parties, i.e., the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the United Marxist-Leninist and the Nepali Congress.

As the Maoists are seeking the head-of-the-state position as well as the prime ministerial position to lead the next government, the other parties disagree to accept the Maoist leadership. But the Maoists argue strongly that the people mandated them to lead the peace process to a logical end through a new government under their leadership and vision. This has been the crux of the debate.

Although the White House and New Delhi have appreciated the historical constituent assembly poll and welcomed its outcome, they have hesitation regarding the Maoist leadership in the government, signaling to cooperate with other pro-Western forces against the winning Maoists. The Nepalis this time did not mandate the other traditional parties whom the United States of America and India especially favor.

The ideological intolerance prevailing in Western minds towards the former Maoist insurgents seems to have played a catalytic role in denouncing the Maoist leadership despite the mandate. Maoist leaders Puspa Kamal Dahal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Mohan Baidya and others have complained several times that Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has to contribute to the enhancement of political morality and decency by immediately resigning and providing a room for the new leadership to form a new coalition government. But Koirala has not spoken a word regarding his possible resignation.

After the elected Constituent Assembly introduced in Nepal the republican political system from 28 May 2008, the Nepalis have been demanding the immediate removal of ex-King Gyanendra from the Narayanhiti Palace saying that he was not entitled to capture the public property any more. But Prime Minister Koirala Wednesday disclosed his secret compromise with the ex-king that he would be provided another palace at Nagarjun, which is a public property.

Many leaders and wings of political parties participating in the coalition government have objected to this step of the prime minister. They argue that it is not right to provide the ex-king a luxurious palace after his status changed from that of a king to that of a citizen.

Besides, many think that the ex-king, the richest person of Nepal and one of the richest individuals of the world, must not be provided any other privileges above ordinary citizens if a real republic is to be implemented. This step of the prime minister has also been questioned from political decency point of view.

It is not yet known when Prime Minister Koirala is going to resign from his post after his party's utter defeat in the poll. He had been provided the post as a respect to his long-term involvement in Nepal's democratic movement and age seniority (he is now 86.). He had accepted the post in April 2006 while he was being oxygenated.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-fragile-peace-process/>

NEPAL'S FRAGILE PEACE PROCESS

oct 23, 2008 | opinion, world

Nepal's government and political parties were unable on Wednesday to form the high level army integration committee and the political steering committee proposed and expected long ago due to the fresh barriers set by the Nepali Congress (NC) known for its love for status quoism.

NC leaders refused to join the army integration committee and the high level political steering committee considered so vital for managing the country's decade-long armed Maoist insurgency.

Maoists emerged as the largest political force in Nepal after the 10-april constituent assembly elections. However, the peace process continues and the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) are in the UN-monitored cantonments.

The NC, after being defeated in the elections, has rendered vague its attitude towards the peace process. Before the constituent assembly elections, all parties were preaching of army integration and rehabilitation.

After the Maoists, in the capacity of the largest political party, began to lead the government, the NC, the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) and the Terai Democratic Madhesh Party (TDMP) have publicly said that the Maoist combatants must not be integrated into the national army.

The NC claims that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between Maoists and other parties does not contain an element of the integration of the Nepal Army and the Maoist PLA.

On the contrary, Maoists say that the Agreement does have that element though not in specific formats. They argue that stakeholders themselves need to work out integration and rehabilitation details. Under the heading of Management of Army and Arms, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement 4.4 states, "Interim Council of Ministers shall form a special committee in order to inspect, integrate and rehabilitate the Maoist combatants."

However, the special committee to inspect, integrate and rehabilitate the Maoists combatants has not been formed to this day. It was expected before the elections. At present, the Nepali Congress demands its own leadership and control in the special committee.

On the one hand, the NC has been disseminating its opinion that the state has never recognized the Maoist PLA that, therefore, must not be integrated into the national army because of the fear of politicization, on the other, special campaigns by Terai's armed groups and Youth Force affiliated to the UML, one of the government coalition partners, have been going on to murder Maoist political workers.

People fear some attempts from the background to reverse the peace process are being made. During the armed insurgency, monarchist death squads armed

with latest weapons and disguised under the banner of Maoists had massacred hundreds of innocent civilians. The weapons distributed to those death squads have not been seized yet. Nor have the mercenaries been arrested yet.

Should the peace process being monitored by the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) be reversed as desired by arms smugglers and brokers, Nepalis may have to experience the fate of Somalia, Congo, Sudan or other countries with similar experiences.

Policy and justice advocates of Nepal need to lobby strongly in favor of political and socio-economic transformation without which the Nepalis will not be able to enjoy sustainable peace.

<https://www.groundreport.com/corruption-in-nepali-congress-reaches-alarming-level/>

CORRUPTION IN NEPALI CONGRESS REACHES ALARMING LEVEL

oct 7, 2008 | politics, world

Former Prime Minister and Nepali Congress (NC) President Girija Prasad Koirala has expressed a profound concern over the indiscipline strongly prevalent within his party.

While talking to his party supporters, activists and journalists in his home town Biratnagar in Easter Nepal, Koirala said, "I will get rid of indiscipline in the party. A special campaign will be launched to strengthen the party and it won't be possible without discipline."

Extremely hostile towards the Maoists, who have now headed the current coalition government because of their emergence as the largest party status in the April election, Koirala asked his party workers to be ready for safeguarding democracy that, according to him, is being destroyed by the Maoists.

After the collapse of the the then King-headed autocratic partyless Panchayat regime in 1990, Koirala and his family members have been in power most of the times.

His acknowledgement of the lack of discipline within his party is a proven fact.

Had there been discipline in the Nepali Congress, his party led by himself with overwhelming majority could punish several publicly convicted former ministers involved in corruption. A few of this party leaders were jailed after the state investigation into big corruption scandals; however, his party never removed them. Instead, he and his central committee defended the publicly accused leaders.

Moreover, his party gave candidature to such legally punished leaders, who were embarrassingly defeated by people in the election.

Previous records of Nepali Congress ministers in their heydays prove how indisciplined Koirala's party is.

<https://www.groundreport.com/yadavs-boycot-chamars-in-nepal/>

YADAVS BOYCOT CHAMARS IN NEPAL

sep 4, 2008 | politics, world

So-called high caste Yadavs at Laxmipur Baguwa in Janakpur have recently boycotted Chamars, one of the Dalit communities, for not scavenging carcasses. The editorial in the state-run centenarian Gorkhapatra daily has brought the incident to public attention.

Caste untouchability is an extreme form of Aryan racism dating back to ancient Hindu caste hierarchy.

Generally those enjoying political and socio-economic privileges in the two Hindu countries India and Nepal discriminate people as 'superior' and 'inferior' on the basis of caste descent.

Caste discrimination is a serious human rights issue in India and Nepal where so-called 'superior caste' people treat so-called 'inferior caste' people as animals or sub-humans.

As part of caste discrimination, so-called 'inferior caste' people are treated as 'untouchables' (meaning 'ritually contaminating by physical touch'). Because of

this deep-rooted caste discrimination, almost five million so-called 'untouchables' in Nepal have for centuries remained deprived of human rights.

These deprived people, who are excluded from political and socio-economic mainstream, are not allowed to enter public temples and shops in more than 3,900 villages in Nepal.

Chamars, also belonging to this so-called 'untouchable' category, were for centuries forced by village feudals to scavenge carcasses.

After 'royal' Nepal became the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in May 2008, Chamars got excited enough to defy the deep-rooted anti-human rights imposed occupation of scavenging. As they decided to take up some other jobs by using their own conscience, the Yadavs punished them by boycotting them.

Boycott of so-called 'untouchables' by so-called 'superior caste' people refers to prohibiting the victims from using public facilities such as drinking water, transport, walking on the roads, buying food and medicine, going to school and farms and more.

Although such a gross violation of human rights has been editorially raised in the government-owned daily newspaper, no response from either the government or political leaderships in Nepal has been reported yet.

A similar anti-Chamar boycott was launched in Lahan, Siraha by so-called 'superior' caste people in 2001.

<https://www.groundreport.com/jumbo-cabinet-going-to-rule-nepal/>

JUMBO CABINET GOING TO RULE NEPAL

aug 31, 2008 | politics, world

A Jumbo cabinet is going to rule the Nepalis, already debilitated by extreme poverty, all-pervasive corruption and cruel black market. Sources say the cabinet members are likely to number from 24-34 in coming weeks.

Following the Constituent Assembly (CA) poll, the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist) emerged as the largest party winning seats two times more than the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML).

The NC and the UML served the former monarchy and tailored their policies to the needs of multinational corporations and Western interests, tremendously jeopardizing the national interests of the country.

As they went on doing what the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other missionary INGOs prescribed, multiplied crises drove Nepal into the 10-year long armed insurgency that killed almost 15,000 people, many of them innocent civilians not involved in battles.

The pro-monarchy government run by the NC and supported by the UML arrested and killed more than 8,000 people just because they morally supported the Maoist-led People's War led by the Maoists.

All-pervasive corruption, ill-governance and maintenance of political nexus with criminal gangs, including smugglers and black-marketers, have become the chief features in Nepali politics.

Over-annoyed by such problems, the Nepalis have democratically mandated the Maoists to lead the nation by providing leadership not only in the new government but also in the process of drafting a new republican, multi-ethnic and federal constitution.

The Nepalis have elected the world's most inclusive Constituent Assembly through the 10 April election.

But the change-resisting forces such as the NC and the UML created hurdles and stopped a new government from taking a shape for four months.

The mass media, politically and commercially manipulated, knowingly or unknowingly, have resisted the former rebels' emergence in the mainstream scenario of Nepali politics. Consequently, unverified news dissemination has contributed to the heightening and deepening of conflicts. Certain incidents between two political wings take place, and deliberately distorted and colored news stories are disseminated. This, many have felt, has not helped conflict transformation.

Maoists, the ex-rebels, have fallen into power traps. Before the CA poll took place, they had not exposed their thirst for power. But after they have got an opportunity to lead the new post-CA poll government, they have shown more love for power, isolating themselves terribly from people.

Villagers complain that Maoist activists have rarely contacted them after the election. They complain that the newly formed combating force YOUTH FORCE led by the UML has been threatening and even attacking them in villages under various pretexts but the Maoist activists have not bothered to listen to them.

Rural people have talked against the concept of jumbo cabinet in a starving nation. Leaders, mainly through corruption, become prosperous in no time but people get poorer and poorer, people often complain.

If the political parties remain active merely for the sake of securing positions and authority in the government, they are not going to impress the poor masses any more.

Just slogans do not feed people. They need food, shelter and clothing. They need education and health. But all these basic needs are getting beyond their affordability because a limited section of the whole population have been controlling the nationwide markets and all the resources of the country.

If the political parties do not dedicate themselves to changing this situation, they are going to lose their rationale soon since the people's plight is reaching the climax. Another civil war may be unavoidable.

Especially, the NC and the UML have not practically accepted the emergence of Maoists as the mainstream force. Their behavioral attitude shows that they are in a position to work with Maoists only if Maoists remain a subordinate force to them. But they have not cultured a democratic attitude to accept the people-elected party as the leader.

Similarly, Maoists, who were the anti-establishment force previously, have to develop their communication and public relations. Uni-party methodologies may not work well in conflict

transformation, they have to realize. Conflict transformation involves various variables that they have to understand accurately and address wisely.

Maoists need to be clear that people elected them as the largest force not only because they fought 10 years for people but also because they have certain visions, agenda and ethical commitments different from the existing rulers. If they deviate from such characteristics, they cannot expect to grow as they are now.

Finally, reducing the cabinet size may not be possible as many parties are stakeholders in the newly formed government. Even fringe parties that have got only one elected CA member have been demanding a ministerial position as a condition for their support to the government.

In the next election, people will have to give a two-third majority to the party that can prove the most useful during the peace process. If so, decision-making and cabinet formation will be easy.

<https://www.groundreport.com/underground-revolutionary-prachanda-emerges-to-lead-nepal/>

UNDERGROUND REVOLUTIONARY PRACHANDA EMERGES TO LEAD NEPAL

aug 18, 2008 | politics, world

During the State of Emergency in 2001, many of his political opponents used to propagate that there was no real Prachanda.

When Prachanda's sketches were published in different newspapers during the intense insurgency period, many even were not able to guess what type of person he was.

Fierce attacks by Maoist People's Army on the government army and police camps made many to think that Prachanda could be someone with a fierce appearance and cruel nature.

But many expressed their surprise over their previous guess at Prachanda's appearance and behavior when he emerged at Baluwatar on 16 June 2006 giving up his 26-year underground life.

He was there to enter the peace process after the 19-day April uprising facilitated his entry, especially attributable to the 12-point agreement signed between his party CPN-Maoist and the Seven Party Alliance fighting peacefully for the restoration of democracy after the then King Gyanendra took over power on 1 February 2005.

Anirban Roy, a 38-year-old Indian writer has written Prachanda's biography entitled "Prachanda: The Unknown Revolutionary" published by Kathmandu-based Mandala Books.

The writer, though he has not met Prachanda personally and is not much interested in politics or Marxism, has been able to present Prachanda to the public.

He was just addressing the public curiosity on the basis of his timely search for relevant details.

However, people were eager to see Prachanda publicly. They were able to do so on 2 June 2007 when Prachanda delivered the first public speech at the Open Theatre amidst an unprecedented mass gathering in Kathmandu. Many came to see and hear Prachanda out of their utter curiosity.

His personal details have been highlighted in the Nepali mainstream media after he was elected the prime minister.

In fact, his determination, hard-working and adoptable nature nourished him in a way to climb up the political ladder during his two-decade political career.

The ideology he adopted molded him. His family did have no influence on his political growth. His party subordinates often argue that he synthesized Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to suit home politics.

It is true that he grew from a local teacher to the historical prime minister after long struggles. But his political journey certainly constructed a pragmatic route to power.

As the prime minister, Prachanda is in the people's laboratory now. One will be able to know more about him through his performance. It is mainly up to him to prove himself.

<https://www.groundreport.com/un-general-secretary-ban-ki-moon-congratulates-nepals-maoist-premier/>

UN GENERAL SECRETARY BAN KI-MOON CONGRATULATES NEPAL'S MAOIST PREMIER

aug 16, 2008 | politics, world

The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has congratulated Prachanda, the Maoist Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maois), on his election as the first premier after the monarchy was abolished in May.

A UN statement published on August 15 night (Kathmandu time) states, "Secretary-General warmly congratulates Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) on his election as the first Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Nepal."

The Secretary General has urged all other parties to cooperate with the new government for the sake of peace. Nepal's neighbors and US and European Union officials have already congratulated Prachanda on his election as prime minister.

The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)—a peace mission—has been helping Nepal with the ongoing peace process.

As part of the peace process, Maoist People's Liberation Army (PKA) fighters have been kept in UN-monitored camps where weapons have been kept in supervised cantonments.

Maoists, who were involved in a decade-long armed insurgency, joined the mainstream peace process two years ago.

The Comprehensive Peace Accord signed between Maoist leaderships and seven other major political parties has clearly stood in favor of the integration of the government and rebel armies.

Maoists emerged as the largest political party after the constituent assembly election in April.

Annoyed by all-pervasive corruption and ill-governance, the majority of Nepalis hope much from the Maoist-led government.

However, Maoists cannot decide alone since they have to satisfy their coalition partners, who belong to traditional mindset.

<https://www.groundreport.com/serious-implications-of-the-presidential-election-in-nepal/>

SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NEPAL

jul 23, 2008 | politics, world

The election of the first Nepali president by the recently elected Constituent Assembly has become an epoch-making event in the political history of Nepal. This is something that the 99.9 percent Nepalis, who voted for the republican structure of the country, cannot differ from. A Nepali citizen was able to claim and win the position of the head of the state. This is the basic fact to note.

However, most of the Nepalis could not enjoy and celebrate this history-making event. Why? No nationwide celebrations could be seen. The reasons are very serious.

Those who did their best to protect feudal monarchy throughout their political life were trying to displace the genuine republican forces of the country. They did this in the name of electing the first president of the country. Ram Raja Prasad Singh, a veteran republican leader of Nepal, was the Maoist-backed presidential candidate. He was defeated by the mega-alliance among 23 parties. He would definitely win if he was backed up not by the Maoist party but by some other pro-India force.

A psychological reason defeated Singh. All the other 23 parties, out of 25 parties, believed the emergence of Maoists as a peaceful political force was a direct threat to their future. This was the reason for their alliance. There was no other notable factor. Politics of vendetta, it is.

Perhaps Maoists, too, must have learnt something from this election. They might have developed a dominating attitude, disliked by other political forces. Although Ram Raja Prasad Singh had practically sowed the seed of republic during King Mahendra's reign in Nepal, he had to accept the defeat jointly caused by former monarchists. He had challenged the king at the time of taking oath—he had to swear in for dying for monarchy but he swore in for dying for the people of Nepal. This pro-public commitment challenging the monarchy led him to prison. In 1985, Singh led a series of violent bomb explosions against the establishments of monarchy. The royal regime declared a death sentence against him and his colleagues. Influenced by Marxism, he never changed his stance for republic. On the contrary, many so-called prominent communist leaders had surrendered to monarchy and served feudalism.

A serious implication of the presidential election is the fact that the Nepali Congress and the UML will do everything they can to counter the Maoists' move towards state power. They are seeking pre-guarantee that nothing will change with the Maoists in power. But Maoists have promised to the people that there

will be something different to appreciate if they go to power. Their argument remains that the previously ruling parties want to prevent revolutionaries from implementing certain policies that could further consolidate their hold in power.

The anti-Maoist alliance in the presidential election shows the other parties' fear. Another notable fact in the presidential election is the victory of Vice-President Parmananda Jha, a former judge questioned by the Supreme Court of Nepal for mishandling a drug deal case. He was demoted from the Supreme Court justice to the Appellate Court judge for his alleged involvement in releasing a Dil Bahadur Gurung imprisoned for drug trafficking.

Equally worth mentioning regarding the presidential election is the truth that the candidates were not inclusively elected. Both belong to the Terai region. No woman at all. Maoists had given inclusive candidature: one from the Terai region and one woman from the Hills. But the alliance, in the name of defeating Maoists any way, did not consider the issue of inclusiveness.

The alliance themselves could give inclusive candidature, but they did not. It is so because of their inherent character. Attached to the issue of inclusiveness is the fact that the Maoists raised the candidates not from their own parties but from civil society category. Shanta Shrestha, the woman candidate for the Vice-President and Ram Raja Prasad Singh, the presidential candidate, both are not affiliated to the Maoist party. But the Nepali Congress and the UML wanted to capture the presidential position themselves.

The latest declaration by the Maoist party not to form the government so long as the current 23-party alliance remains against them shows that they are interested in doing homework for the two-third majority in the future election. But the Nepalis, forced to live painful lives, wonder what will happen if political ethics is always overshadowed.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-the-coming-constitution-and-the-issue-of-transformation/>

NEPAL: THE COMING CONSTITUTION AND THE ISSUE OF TRANSFORMATION

jul 10, 2008 | politics, world

The Nepalis have never obtained an opportunity to draft their constitution by themselves. So far they have been ruled by the constitutions designed by

individual elites and traditional power-wielders. In other words, feudal forces in different forms have ruled the Nepali society for centuries.

The historical mass movement of 2006, despite counterrevolutionary efforts to re-frustrate the Nepalis, has created in them a bright hope for total transformation of their lives. It is believed that the recently elected Constituent Assembly could be utilized for the long-awaited transformation of the Nepali society.

Total transformation becomes an empty talk in absence of political, economic and social transformation.

There has been little debate about the political transformation in the country. Political communication has been a forgotten part of political affairs. Indeed, no democracy can thrive in absence of adequate communication on political transformation.

Some political parties mistakenly think that democracy is their own ascendance to power, continuous corruption, elections and the maintenance of status quo. But people's life status teaches us many things regarding what is democracy and what is not.

In fact, political transformation mainly involves the task of transforming the mindset of political players. Building up healthy and morally cultured political players is inalienably concerned with the process of political transformation. Educating, re-educating and continuously refining political minds are essential for transforming political mindset.

A change-resisting mentality cannot address the latest needs of human society. Such a mentality is used to understanding socio-economic relations in a superiority-inferiority perspective. This perspective, disguised in subtle ways, basically works against the universal human values of equality, liberty and fraternity.

Besides, political culture is a vital ingredient of political transformation. A set of thoughts and behavioral codes can shape up political culture. So long as political leaderships cannot follow moral obligations towards people as self-guiding rules, a good political culture cannot grow in the country. But a politically untransformed political party cannot work to transform the country. It cannot give a clear vision for the people to go ahead.

Once political parties genuinely engaged in the process of transforming themselves, its positive impact will be seen on their regional, district and village

units, which are people's political channels. Thus, political transformation within political parties is closely related to the country/s overall transformation process.

The economic transformation of the country is impossible without political transformation because policy formation is mainly guided by political forces. In fact, economic policies reflect the nature of political mindset. The nature of economic policies further reflects the nature of class prejudices in the national economy.

Some people have the misconception that investment and technologies determine economic policy formulation. Investment and technologies influence economic policy formulation but do not determine it. Political forces are the chief decision-makers in the orientation of the country's economy. In the context of Nepal, the prosperity concentrated among the elite members of society shows the lack of economic vision to economically empower grassroot people in the country. Nepal's national economy is mainly based on personal commission-making that lessens the country's production capacity as well as people's creativity. When national economy is far more import-oriented, there cannot be balanced between consumption and production. Consequently, the nation becomes a mere consumer of the products and services of multinational companies. The productivity of citizens is used more on selling imported products than on producing to export. Because of this, the income out of the remittances of the Nepali citizens working abroad goes back to foreign countries.

Economic transformation is impossible without the control of all-pervasive corruption. Corruption does not cease to become a major disease of the nation without breaking its nexus with political leaderships. Thus, the issue of combating corruption cannot be alienated from the issue of political morality and culture.

Indeed, political decision-making plays a key role in designing economic policies aiming at transforming people's economic status.

Similarly, all other successes can change into failures if people's social life remains untransformed.

Social transformation enables people to become responsible human beings with sympathy, empathy and a healthy sense of social responsibility. Another vital fact about social transformation is that it facilitates a conducive environment for promoting humanity to a bigger height: higher culture, higher morality and higher consciousness can be expected from social transformation. Indeed, a discrimination-free society is the primary expectation of social transformation. In

such a society, all citizens can enjoy an equal human dignity despite their varying ethnic, linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

However, the state has to adopt certain constitutional measures in order to guarantee smooth transformation processes. The visions of transformation set in the constitution can function as practical guidelines for political leaderships and state organs to go ahead. Some of the unforgettable provisions to be included in the coming constitution can be the provisions of dealing with all kinds of existing social discriminations as serious crimes against humanity. When the state is constitutionally prepared to treat social discriminations as serious crimes against humanity, it will promote equality, freedom and brotherhood among fellow citizens on the one hand and will also stimulate national development processes on the other.

Likewise, the constitutional guarantee of education and employment for each citizen can be another vital infrastructure for political, economic and social transformation. In fact, real empowerment of citizens becomes possible with the state-guaranteed education and employment. This responsibility of the state towards citizens will equate with citizens' accountability towards their duties. Equally, unforgettable in this context is the fact that education and employment are both human rights set in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet the present approach of educational policy has made education something to buy with money. But when education really becomes a human right by means of its constitutional guarantee, people will be able to accelerate their progress. This is how they can transform themselves and their society.

<https://www.groundreport.com/anti-china-protests-and-nepals-geopolitical-sensitivity/>

ANTI-CHINA PROTESTS AND NEPAL'S GEOPOLITICAL SENSITIVITY

jun 20, 2008 | politics, world

The Nepal government led by pro-India Nepali Congress has found itself in a difficult position as to Sino-Nepal relations and the everyday anti-China Tibetan protests in Kathmandu. The US Administration and New Delhi both think that Tibetans deserve the right to protest while the Nepalis fear that such regular anti-China Tibetan protests in Kathmandu will cause a substantial damage to the bilateral relations between Nepal and China. Especially, the fact that Nepal's foreign policy has always defined Tibet as an autonomous province of China does not allow anti-China pro-independence Tibetan protests in Nepal. However, some INGOs working in Nepal have, because of their own ideological reasons,

been trying to promote the pro-independence Tibetan movement. Involved in them are some Nepali human rights industrialists who want to use human rights channels to help Tibetans promote their pro-independence movement. Even white faces can be seen in Tibetans' Kathmandu protests. Although they usually conceal their exact identity, some Nepali intelligence sources affiliated to media admit that there are also some detectives among such white faces.

As to how harsh or soft Nepal can be to Tibetan protests in Kathmandu, the Nepal government has not yet clarified its position. But it is in favor of letting protests go on in a soft manner. The analysis of the Nepal government may be that a few dozen protestors in the streets of Kathmandu will not be cause of harm to Sino-Nepal relations, harmonious for centuries.

What is interesting in this context is that among thousands of Tibetans in Nepal, only a few dozen Tibetans take part in the anti-China policy. Most of the Tibetans in Nepal have naturalized themselves as Nepalis rather than Tibetans.

Yet, Tibetans seem to have a long-term plan of continuing pro-independence movement. To respond to any arising situation, the Nepal government may use some force to arrest a few Tibetan leaders and activists and keep them under a 90-day custody.

The Nepal government must consider her geopolitical sensitivity as to her balanced relationships with India and China.

<https://www.groundreport.com/status-quoists-set-barriers-to-peace-process-in-nepal/>

STATUS-QUOISTS SET BARRIERS TO PEACE PROCESS IN NEPAL

jun 18, 2008 | opinion, world

After the Secretary General of the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) Jhala Nath Khanal called upon his party workers and supporters to launch nationwide offensives against Maoists, UML-supported student union workers have attacked Maoist-supported students on Tuesday. Janadisha daily published on Wednesday has stated that about a dozen Maoist-supported students have been injured. Those seriously injured have been hospitalized.

UML Secretary General, after his party's defeat in the 10-April Constituent Assembly poll, has time and again urged his party workers to launch nationwide

offensives against Maoist party. However, Maoist workers self-restrained. Self-restraint has been one of their notable characteristics during the two-year peace process.

Almost 200 Maoist workers and supporters have been murdered during two years.

The Nepali Congress (NC) and the UML have stopped Maoists from forming the post-poll government as per democratic norms. Maoists have a clear majority of 120+2 seats out of 240 direct seats obtained from the 10-April poll. The election of proportional candidates is for not a poll based on the defeat-and-loss notion.

Generally, NC leaders are extremely notorious for high level scarcity of political morality. Current Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, a monarchist leader within the Nepali Congress before the abolition of monarchy, has clung to his post for tow months despite his party's defeat in the election. His party had obtained only 37 direct seats while Maoists have won over three times more.

The NC and UML have been insisting on maintaining status-quoism, a factor that remains as a major challenge to the full-fledged implementation of federal democratic republic and state-restructuring agenda.

Media reports in the country have reflected that the NC and UML have grown more aggressive and hostile against Maoists, the key force behind the agenda setting and opinion formation in the favor of federation and republic. The Nepalis have already approved of this.

Until before 2005, the NC and the UML had labeled Maoists as terrorists worth beheading through open tender. But after King Gyanendra launched a coup d'état in February 2005, he detained NC and UML leaders along with ordinary people through various suppressive measures. Sidelined from power, NC and UML leaderships resorted to Maoists, the chief proponents of the agenda of federal republic. Maoists promised to collaborate with them only on condition that they would be prepared for an all-out movement for the attainment of the constituent assembly and federal republic. Previously opposed to such agenda, NC and UML leaderships readily accepted them. Previously, they had killed thousands of people just because they supported the Maoist insurgency aimed at federalism and republic.

After the nation unanimously decided to go for implementing federal democratic republican system, it is not understood why NC and UML leaders are setting barriers to timely actions of implementation.

The prime minister has not resigned yet even after the people gave an embarrassing blow to his party two months ago. He served feudal monarchy for more than 50 years in Nepal and is now trying to set barriers on the way to the full implementation of republic. The UML that has so far been following the footprints of the NC has also collaborated with the NC in stopping the winners from forming a new government publicly mandated to head the process of implementing the republican declaration of the elected Constituent Assembly.

<https://www.groundreport.com/change-resisting-forces-pose-a-challenge-to-inclusive-democracy-in-nepal/>

CHANGE-RESISTING FORCES POSE A CHALLENGE TO INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY IN NEPAL

jul 4, 2008 | politics, world

Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, also the President of the Nepali Congress Party, has failed to fulfill his promise of resigning. He was expected to facilitate the formation of a new government after the Constituent Assembly (CA) poll held more than two and half months ago. Many have wondered why Koirala has been reluctant to resign even seven weeks after the poll.

Talking to the BBC Nepali service on 3 July, Sadbhawana party leader Anil Jha disclosed that his party and other Madhesi parties prefer that Koirala stay back in the prime minister's position because his continuity will help implement the Madhesi demands. The Madhesi parties have been demanding the constitutional provision of a single Madhesi province along with an organized mass entry of the people into the Nepal Army. However, the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist), the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) and many leaders of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) have stressed that such sensitive demands should be the agenda of the elected Constituent Assembly assigned to draft a new post-conflict constitution.

The leaders within Koirala's party—NC—seem to have been divided between supporting and opposing the Madhesi demands of a single Madhesi province and the mass entry of the Madhesi youths into the Nepal Army. This has added further confusion to the existing perplexities.

The interim constitution has carried a vision of multi-ethnic representation with federalism though federal structures are yet to be defined by the Constituent Assembly. Proportional multi-ethnic representation has been the grassroot vision embraced by the transformative forces led or influenced by the Maoists who

conducted a decade-long armed insurgency and who are in the peace process at present.

Following the emergence of Maoists as Nepal's largest political parties, Indian and US ruling elites with hegemonistic psychology are all at sea. They prefer the traditional forces to lead the government while they would not mind seeing the Maoists in subordinate positions. But the people's preference is just the opposite: let Maoists face hard tests of leading Nepal towards overall transformation since all others have already proved themselves as bankrupts.

While the struggles between the change-favorers and the change-resisters continue, frictions are inevitable; people's ultimate victory is unpreventable.

<https://www.groundreport.com/consumer-movement-required-in-nepal/>

CONSUMER MOVEMENT REQUIRED IN NEPAL

jun 26, 2008 | business, world

The 'Nepal government,' adopting a bigwigs-make-decisions path, has allowed smugglers and black marketers to take full control of markets. Most of the smugglers and black marketers are the greatest fund-givers of political parties that promise to protect their interests.

Smugglers and black marketers, the biggest tax evaders, have a high degree of influence in both political decision-making and in government administrative mechanisms. This is the primary reason why the Nepali consumers of all sorts suffer enormously from massive exploitation and corruption, primary factors contributing to national poverty.

Amidst the recent price hikes, such an influence can be apparently seen as consumers have been forced to pay more unscientific prices monopolized by unethical monetary mentality; politicians seem to have lost their political control over such matters.

It is evident that well-regulated businesses follow the nation's laws and regulations while smugglers and black marketers, by nature, tend to violate them. Open violations have become possible because of their nexus with politicians. Impunity has become a transparent consequence of nontransparent activities promoting impunity.

In such a condition, a strong consumer movement is a prerequisite for the protection of people's interests. The working class people are eager to participate in the consumer movement. But due to their political and socio-economic deprivations, they have no access to media power and intellectual resources. As the middle class intelligentsia and the business-dominated mass media have not internalized the severe sufferings of the working class people, the development of consumer movement has been a difficult thing in Nepal.

Moreover, the 'Nepal government' has not been able to implement the consumer acts made more than a decade ago. The reason is clear: the government works in favor of the moneyed class in the name of people and democracy.

The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the strongest political organization so far, has appeared quite weak in providing input, insight and guidance for the country's movement.

Similarly, journalists, lawyers and human rights workers have equally fallen behind regarding the implementation of human rights instruments concerned with consumer rights.

However, continuous exploitation of people and the formation in people of submissive mentality will terribly and all-pervasively scale up impunity. To cope with demonic anarchy in the markets and to prevent severe consequences, a consumer movement under the guidance of working class ideology is essential.

<https://www.groundreport.com/exorbitant-price-hikes-threaten-consumers-lives-in-nepal/>

EXORBITANT PRICE HIKES THREATEN CONSUMERS' LIVES IN NEPAL

jun 22, 2008 | politics, world

Nepal's transport entrepreneurs have continued their indefinite strike even today demanding for more than 40 per cent of fare hike. They have not let any public vehicle run in the streets. According to reports, they have damaged some bikes and taxis in Kathmandu.

According to sources affiliated with transport entrepreneurs, the government and the entrepreneurs had made a secret compromise for an increase in the transport fare by 40 per cent. But pressurized by the people's protests, the government formed a committee to determine the fare. The committee decreased the fare to

25 percent. Dissatisfied by this, the entrepreneurs have been protesting with a demand to restore the previously agreed-upon fare.

But consumer rights advocates say that the Nepal government has decided the transport fare on behalf of the entrepreneurs, forgetting the people. They say there has been an increase in petroleum prices only by 12 percent while the government increases the prices far more than the actual hike. People in villages have expressed their apprehension over the possible give-and-take of huge bribes before deciding the fare.

Political organizations affiliated to political parties are sound asleep even though the government has tortured people in this way. Only a few students have been seen in the streets shouting for a raise in the student concession. But they have not protested against the government and the transport entrepreneurs, who have jointly tortured people.

Some consumers say people should boycott transport for two months to teach them a lesson. As the exorbitant price hikes threaten most consumers' lives in Nepal, people doubt if civil war should the smugglers and blackmarketers be the decisive forces in national politics.

<https://www.groundreport.com/two-nepali-school-girls-sold-to-mumbai-brothel/>

TWO NEPALI SCHOOL GIRLS SOLD TO MUMBAI BROTHEL

sep 7, 2008 | politics, world

The *Janadisha* daily has reported on Sunday that two Nepali school girls of Bardiya district have been sold to a Mumbai brothel by long-involved brokers for a sum of Nepali Rs. 33,000 to 40,000.

Tulasa Hamal and Chandrani Tharu, both not more than 14 years of age, were taken to India on August 29 according to Gyanu Kurmi, a reported eyewitness. Both girls are understood to be class 8 students.

A trafficking gang led by Sarada Begam is reported to be involved in selling the children to the brothel.

Other members in the trafficking gang include Binod Nepali, Dambar Nepali, Durga Nepali, Puran BK and Sher Bahadur BK, all of Sanoshree village in Bardiya district.

Family members of the sold children Manju Devi and Ram Dulari have registered a case report at the Bardiya district police.

The accused are said to be in Mumbai. Sarada Begam is reported to have been involved in the crime for many years.

Police say they will exercise for the return of the sold girls.

International reports claim almost 12,000 Nepali women and girls are sold to different brothels in Bombay every year. However, criminals, people complain, have been enjoying impunity.

Many believe there is nexus between politicians and criminal gangs.

<https://www.groundreport.com/criminalization-of-politics-and-impunity-chief-human-rights-concerns-in-nepal/>

CRIMINALIZATION OF POLITICS AND IMPUNITY: CHIEF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN NEPAL

may 16, 2008 | politics, world

Although politics is the central nervous system of the overall human society, it becomes the most dangerous thing when it is highly criminalized. Should politics be captured by money-mongering adventurers, nothing in human society will

remain within the human ethical framework. Self-destructive thoughts and actions result from criminalized politics.

To prevent human politics from becoming a complete business of criminal forces, research, public debates and action-oriented advocacy are necessary.

Criminalization of politics and impunity are global problems. Hence the need of global attention to such issues. However, people of every country have the social responsibility of bringing such concerns to the fore.

An example of how criminalization of politics and impunity not only impede the overall development process but also create political instability, public insecurity and a man-eat-man atmosphere can be seen in Nepal.

Many political leaders, still in power, had claimed more than five decades ago that the Nepalis got democracy. They had said so without understanding the core concept of democracy. They understood democracy only as a speech platform with little or no concern for people's daily life. Therefore, they did not bother to reach the grassroot people with genuine democracy. Democracy for several decades became a subject of luxurious and happy-go-lucky speakers. It was like a fancy storytelling episode.

During the 30-year partyless Panchayat rule, democracy was no more than a publicity strategy for hereditary monarchical rule. Those who joined the monarchical circle exercised hard to teach the Nepalis that democracy and monarchy were inseparable from each other. Consequently, every mechanism of Nepal was dictated by monarchy. To lead state mechanism, leaders had to be extremely loyal to monarchy. Even the Nepali Congress and the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) worked hard to re-strengthen the feudal monarchy. They spent more than a decade on this pro-monarchy exercise.

So far, the forces that reached state power had a misconception that everything was right for people when they were in power and everything was wrong for people when they were out of power. They saw criminalization of politics when not in state power. They could not see the same problem when in state power. This sight defect has contributed to the reinforcement of criminalization process.

When the Ranas captured power from the Shahs in 1846, the Shah dynasty holders thought the Rana rulers were criminals. The court massacre carried out by Jung Bahadur Rana while capturing power was obviously a criminal act. The Ranas did so by taking advantage of the serious contradictions existing in the Shah dynasty.

When the people removed the Ranas from power in 1951, the Shah dynasty got their power back. During their heydays, the members of the Shah dynasty committed crimes against the people. All such crimes committed under the umbrella of the Panchayat democracy were immunized. Consequently, no investigations were possible.

The Mallik probe commission formed to investigate the crimes against humanity during the 49-day people's political movement recommended legal actions against many human rights violators. But the post-movement government and the opposition parties, viz., NC and UML in the main, immunized them in the name of liberalism.

When democrats took over power in the post-1990 period, the trends of human rights violations went on as usual. So did the trend of impunity.

No different situation has been felt even after the collapse of monarchy after the 19-day historical April uprising in 2006. The interim government has not acted to end the existing situation of impunity. The Rayamajhi probe commission report that recommended legal actions against crimes against humanity has been neglected. This is one more repetition for prolonging impunity.

The Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) openly massacred 28 civilians at Gaur of Rautahat on 21 March 2007. The security mechanism even did not accept the information report about the incident. This is a vivid instance of how the state has intentionally served the culture of impunity.

Even those jailed and heavily fined for major national corruption scandals were made candidates in the election of the constituent assembly meant to rectify and restructure Nepal. They were jailed and freed within a few months. People have taken it as an impunity case. Their candidature in the glorious constituent assembly poll meant a further step to consolidate the existing level of impunity. Unless this culture of impunity is broken, criminalization of national politics cannot be curbed.

People want to see big criminals behind bars, not in the forefront of politics or honor. The constitutional guarantee that every citizen, regardless of any other background, is equal before law continues being humiliated as long as certain big criminals obtain impunity while innocent citizens are victimized instead. The continuity of the culture of impunity means the continuity of the criminalization of politics.

The continuity of the criminalization of politics means more violation of human rights. Thus, the criminalization of politics and the culture of impunity are today's

major human rights concerns deserving adequate attention of not only human rights institutions and professional advocates but also of political forces as well as media.

The culture of impunity, conflagrating violence and conflicts, is a clear threat to humanity. Critical humanists, in the main, have to deal with this issue with comprehensive attention.

<https://www.groundreport.com/as-black-market-thrives-in-nepal-government-does-nothing/>

AS BLACK MARKET THRIVES IN NEPAL, GOVERNMENT DOES NOTHING

may 7, 2008 | politics, world

Nepal is a country so far controlled by smugglers, black marketers and other criminal gangs. Corruption is all-pervasive across the nation. Everyone has admitted this. Criminalization of politics has facilitated a ground for evil actions. Criminal gangs never want to lose the continuity of what they have been enjoying at present. They will not be very positive towards change-seeking forces. Their ultimate efforts will be to thwart the peace process and reverse the change process. But this will be just a daydream because the Nepalis at any cost will restructure their state along with necessary changes in all sectors.

As the state restructuring will mostly harm the regressive and status-quoist forces, they cannot remain without hatching some kind of conspiracies against the change process. Since they do not want to abandon their monolithic power and privileges, they calculate how to maintain the existing situation.

Many smugglers, black marketers and commission worms are extremely worried because their favorite political parties that always collaborated with them in doing underhand jobs are unlikely to get the leadership now. As the Nepalis have voted for a new leadership, those who have openly looted people are polarizing against change-seeking forces.

Besides, if the coming government overcomes the corrupt mechanisms of the country and becomes able to smoothly supply the basic necessities to the people, the smugglers, black marketers and commission worms will dry rapidly. As such anti-people forces do not want to dry, they have been making efforts to pull the country's new leadership into their own cobwebs.

If the new leadership of Nepal fails to restructure all the vital mechanisms such as the Revenue Department, land revenue offices, airport and all other customs, courts, transport systems, communications systems and essential services sector, they are certain to fail ultimately. Only polished policies will not do in Nepal. There are many corrupt mechanisms that must be corrected as soon as possible.

Should the coming government look after people's basic needs and control mafia-ization of every sector, it will undoubtedly enjoy the overwhelming support of the people.

Regressive forces that have just lost their power will make every effort to reverse the situation. They will try to preserve the feudal monarchy in any form possible. But the new leadership must never be loose-minded as far as the people's mandate of federal republic is concerned.

The greatest success of Nepal's new leadership depends on how they implement the provision of federal republic already set in the interim constitution. Certain forces within the mainstream politics seem to be engaged in conspiracies against the implementation of the provision of federal republic. Certain leaders in the mainstream politics have tried to work against the change process while they have not been able to abandon their nexus with monarchy.

Similarly, some outside forces have hinted at how they will move as their Nepal policy. In appearance, they say they respect the Nepalis' decision. But in practice, they seek ways to prevent the new leadership from coming to power. There are reports that the CIA has been trying to mobilize several mainstream leaders by raising this or that issue. Extremist Hindu organizations of India have openly urged Nepal's feudalist forces to raise arms against the change process. Hindu extremists have been trying to communalize Nepal's politics so that they can benefit more through the instability in Nepal.

In such a situation, whoever are going to lead Nepal at least during the constitution-making period need to be more precautionous.

<https://www.groundreport.com/marriage-without-bridegroom-performed-in-nepal/>

MARRIAGE WITHOUT BRIDEGROOM PERFORMED IN NEPAL

apr 29, 2008 | lifestyle, world

According to Government-owned Gorkhapatra national daily published on 29 April, a Juna Nepali of Amarapuri village in Nawalparasi district (Nepal) has married a Bhim Bahadur Hitang though he was in Dubai at the time of marriage. A marriage without the presence of the bridegroom has been seen as an unusual happening in Nepal. Juna and Bhim used to have occasional conversation on telephone. They agreed to marry each other and fixed the date.

The Gorkhapatra has also quoted Juna's uncle Shankar Bahadur Nepali as saying that all marriage rituals were performed and gifts and wishes were given to the bride. After the marriage, bridegroom Bhim is said to have telephoned a local journalist from Dubai stating that he accepted his bride and that he was looking forward to a happy family life with her when he would come back to Nepal.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-poll-results-naturalness-vs-surprise/>

NEPAL POLL RESULTS: NATURALNESS VS SURPRISE

apr 28, 2008 | politics, world

Results of the Constituent Assembly Poll: Naturalness Vs Surprise

The victory of the Maoist ex-rebels in Nepal's constituent assembly elections amazed many blind critics and elite pundits distanced from grassroots agenda and rural psychology. Despite formal acceptance of results, the status-quoist mindset has not accepted the poll results in essence.

However for many acquainted with the ground realities of Nepal, the poll results obtained by the former rebels is not surprising at all. Perhaps it was a phenomenon that has stunned the international community because the manufacture of opinions had taken place in a different way.

The Nepali Congress and the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) had never analyzed Maoists accurately. They used to call Maoist insurgency sometimes pure 'terrorism' and sometimes 'political issue'. Their outlook on the insurgency was mistaken in political and socio-economic analysis. Therefore, they had been operating their party activities on the basis of their traditionalist and status-quoist analysis, which was utterly wrong. Because of their unchanged thought patterns,

they have mainly viewed the poll results more in a negative way than in a normal way. This reflects their unchanged mindset that used to view elections as a fierce game involving money, media, and muscle.

The Maoists initiated their armed insurgency, which they refer to as 'People's War' in 1996 as the Nepali Congress government rejected the Maoists' proposal for state restructuring. During insurgency, the Nepali Congress and UML never comprehensively and in-depth analyzed the underlying factors behind the rapid expansion of the Maoist insurgency across the country. They, instead, were busy finding out ways to rule Nepal for ever with foreign military aid. In 2001, they handed over the responsibility of suppressing the rebels to the king, who in 2002, sidelined them with a blame that they failed to rule.

Despite the unavailability of exact death statistics, media often mention that about 15,000 people were killed during the decade-long insurgency. Most of them were killed by the state run by the Nepali Congress, the UML and other royalist factions). None of them have apologized for their involvement.

Thousands of people, who lost their nearest and dearest during state suppression, attacks and search-and-destroy operations, voted against the involved parties. Thousands of people, whose family members and relatives have disappeared and about whom the state has not given any information to this day despite repeated pressures from all sides, voted against the involved parties.

Similarly, thousands of security forces, whom the state mobilized to fight the rebels instead of having talks for conflict management, voted in the proportional poll against the involved parties. Besides, people voted against corruption.

Most powerful leaders were defeated. Some of them were jailed previously for corruption scandals. Most of those who took up politics as a private commercial enterprise have been defeated by the people.

However, some take such results unnaturally. They think it is unexpected. But ordinary masses, who actually used the power of their vote, take this poll results very naturally. People are not surprised at all. Only the leaders defeated by the people are surprised.

People, in fact, voted for a better change. They saw the possibility of change in the country through a new leadership, i.e. Maoists, who have never reached power before.

Poll Results Vs New Bottle-Old Wine Politics

Indeed, the results of the constituent assembly has slapped status-quoists very badly. This is the main reason why they have begun to oppose any possibility of newer changes in public policies. Previously, they used to give the highest priority to what handfuls of businessmen and international preferred. Contrary to this, Maoists have a clear pro-public stance. This stance did contribute to the Maoist gains in the recently held constituent assembly polls.

But many commission-oriented businessmen, political bigwigs and state officials, including those addicted to a high margin of profit in war supplies, have become angry at the poll results. They might be exercising to see any other possibility to derail the peace process.

It is an obvious truth that more than 60 Maoist party workers have been killed during the two-year peace process. People should thank them for not retaliating the attacks. They have remained more self-restrained. Because of their commitment to the ongoing peace process, people have actually awarded them in the constituent assembly polls.

But some leaders belonging to the Nepali Congress and the UML have demanded for the dissolution of the Maoists' youth wing known as Y.C.L (young communist league). Mostly the leaders defeated in the poll have put this demand as a pre-condition for co-working with Maoists, who have been urging other parties to join their imminent government.

The YCL is an unarmed sister organization of the Maoists, who point out the fact that the Nepali Congress and the UML also have their youth wings known as the Tarun Dal and the Democratic National Youth Union.

Growing Aggravation of Mental Perplexities Among Previous Rulers

The previously ruling political parties, the Nepali Congress, the UML and others, still do have mental perplexities regarding the implementation of the provision of republic added as an amendment in the interim constitution in December 2007. They want to prolong the debate over how to implement the republican provision. They want to tease those who won most seats, i.e. Maoists.

But the Nepalis want quick changes because they have already waited for decades. They prefer the leadership that can make quick decisions and quickly move to implement them.

Should the Nepali Congress and the UML maintain their mental perplexities regarding the procedures of bidding farewell to monarchy, they will be more cut

off from the millions of people who took out to the streets in the 19-day historical April uprising that toppled the direct royal regime. People have already given their verdict that they no longer want to maintain monarchy in Nepal.

If certain political parties hesitate to cooperate with the coming government for implementing the people's verdict through the first session of the constituent assembly, this may be understood as a betrayal.

Perhaps no political organizations interested in long-term politics would dare to go against the people's verdict, soon going to be constitutionalized. Moreover, even those deliberately engaged in the final efforts to preserve as far as possible their traditional privileges and embezzling environment will not say they are against changes.

But their attempts will emerge more subtly and in micro forms. For example, certain political leaderships previously notorious for corruption, ill-governance and resistance to change approaches and now rejected by people in the poll have begun to claim that they should still get the helm of leadership despite its inability to justify the claim. This is a sign of growing aggravation of their mental perplexities, and people still fear that the peace process may be derailed due to such power-mongering characteristics.

However, should the progressive forces unite and make wise policies to mobilize people peacefully so as to make the peace process a grand success, the fighters for petty interests will never succeed in promoting war and embezzlement businesses.

<https://www.groundreport.com/us-to-assist-maoists-in-nepal/>

US TO ASSIST MAOISTS IN NEPAL

apr 21, 2008 | politics, world

Talking to Nepal's Speaker of the Interim Legislative Subash Newang, US Ambassador to Nepal Nancy J Powell said on 21 April in Kathmandu that the US Administration would support the forthcoming Maoist-led government of Nepal.

The US Administration has so far estimated the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) as a terrorist organization active against democracy and human rights. Nepal's monarchy-led governments in which the current Nepali Congress and the United Marxist-Leninist (UML), too, worked also treated Nepal's Maoist ex-rebels as terrorists. Because of this outlook found in domestic and external politics, there was no favorable atmosphere previously to address the grassroots agenda on which the Maoists founded and spread the decade-long People's War [1996-2006].

As the ambassador indicated the latest change in the US attitude to the recently elected Maoists, who gained most of the seats in the April-10 the constituent assembly poll, the Nepalis expect the Whitehouse to soon remove the 'terrorist' tag labeled on Maoists.

The Nepali Congress and the UML had made utmost efforts to suppress with US military assistance the 10-year long armed insurgency led by the CPN (Maoist) but in vain. When King Gyanendra launched an army-aided coup on 1 February 2005, all political parties, including the Nepali Congress and the UML became completely sidelined despite their efforts to negotiate with the king and form a new government. Left with no option, they turned to Maoist insurgents for a joint political movement. Maoists, whom the Whitehouse had also targeted, and who had captured a greater portion of the rural territory, did not miss this opportunity. They expressed their desire to join the mainstream peaceful political movement, stating their condition of strategic equilibrium, a situation of neither winning nor defeating on both sides.

On 6 April 2006, the Maoists and other seven parties launched nationwide political movement against the direct royal regime. At the beginning, the seven parties concealed the information that even Maoist People's Liberation Army men, people's militia and general supporters had taken part in the movement. After one week of organized protests, the uprising occurred in the streets. Spontaneously, almost 10 million Nepalis (Nepal's population 27.5 million) rose up in the streets across the nation. They defied the nationwide military curfews continuously up to 19 days. People demanded the complete and immediate abolition of monarchy.

While the Nepalis were preparing to declare Nepal a republic on 25 April 2006, the king restored the House of Representatives dissolved in 2001. He succumbed to people's power saying that he was ready to abandon the captured sovereignty and give it back to people. The political forces wanted to prevent any further bloodbath. People believed that peaceful methods could end monarchy.

The recently held constituent assembly has been considered the best peaceful method to formally end monarchy in Nepal. Nepal's interim constitution has

already had a provision of federal republic just to be approved by the first meeting of the elected constituent assembly.

As Maoists were the chief proponents of the federal republican system in Nepal, the majority of Nepalis have mandated them to head the process of implementing the provision of the interim constitution. Maoist leaders Prachanda and Dr. Baburam Bhattarai have been lobbying for international support to them.

The international community has welcomed the poll results in Nepal. They expect Nepal to go through a peaceful path on the days to come. However, the king (soon going to be de-crowned and removed from the palace) has not presented his clear stance yet. Countering silence of the king, Maoist leader in an interview with Janadisha daily published on 20 April has clarified his party's position that even the security forces may be used to remove the king from the palace should he be stubborn. Maoists have also declared to change the palace into a public museum.

After the Maoist-led government will be formed in a month, the US Administration may wish to wait and see. Unlike the Nepali Congress and the UML, Maoists have so far protected their image on sovereignty issues; therefore, contradictions between the US Administration and Maoist-led government may develop to a newer scale.

Seeking international relations on the basis of peaceful co-existence principles is something not without troubles in the third world as direct hegemony in the name of loans and grants has become an apparent truth at present. Self-sufficient economy will never become possible in Nepal unless the coming government can function without external interference.

<https://www.groundreport.com/senior-leaders-undermine-peoples-dignity-in-nepal/>

SENIOR LEADERS UNDERMINE PEOPLE'S DIGNITY IN NEPAL

apr 16, 2008 | politics, world

Senior leaders of the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Emaalay (UML) have undermined people's dignity by miscommunicating about the results of the

constituent assembly poll held on 10 April 2008. Maoist insurgents, after their two-year long involvement in peace process, have won most of the seats in CA poll termed by national and international observers as peaceful, free and fair.

NC Supremo and current Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Chairman Prachanda and outgoing UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal had appreciated the election as peaceful, free and fair immediately after the election was over on 10 April.

Similarly, the UN Mission to Nepal, National Election Observation Committee (NEOC) and dozens of other national and international election observers told media on the same day that the election was incredibly peaceful and well-performed.

Former US President Jimmy Carter on behalf of Carter Center remarked that it was the best election he had ever observed in the world. He even met Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and other Nepali leaders and congratulated them for successfully holding such a peaceful, free and fair election.

India, England, France, Canada, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Japan and many other nations have already expressed their support to the elected parties.

However, contrary to the remarks by election observers, experts, and other nations, the NC and the UML, who lost heavily, have spoken lowly things after the poll results came out. After the CA poll has established Maoists as the largest political party in Nepal, the tone of the senior leaders of the NC and the UML has changed negatively. Nepal's former Prime Minister and NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, Deputy President of NC and Peace and Reconstruction Minister Ram Chandra Poudel, UML outgoing General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal (he lost the election in both of his constituencies), and another senior UML leader Khadga Oli (he also lost the election) have accused Maoists of having won the CA poll not with people's votes but with the use of force and threats. Their extremely negative expressions against the CA poll outcome characterize their own unchanged status-quoist mindset resisting the grassroot agenda of political and socio-economic transformation. Besides, the humiliation of the poll results has also attacked the people's conscience and dignity. Is this a democratic culture? Can a single political party keep people's decision-making minds in pockets?

In democracy, top political leaders have to respect people's free votes. But just the opposite has happened in Nepal. Both the NC and UML leaders of Nepal have degraded people's voting power. This is a negative symptom as far as the institutionalization of democracy is concerned. So long as senior political leaders

do not have a culture of respecting people's opinion and choice, democratizing the country becomes a rather difficult task.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepalis-slapped-regressive-forces-through-ca-poll/>

NEPALIS SLAPPED REGRESSIVE FORCES THROUGH CA POLL

apr 11, 2008 | politics, world

After the Nepalis have successfully performed the long-awaited historical constituent assembly poll on April 10, they have been most eagerly waiting for the results of the poll.

The UN Mission to Nepal and other national and international observers have reported that the elections were free and peaceful though a few polling centers did have some disputes that will be solved through re-polling.

Especially, the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Emaalay (UML) were involved in violence and killing in some districts. Even in Kathmandu constituency number 9, many UML supporters were found to have voted repeatedly in more than four constituencies.

In Kaleshwor village in Lalitpur, most of the previous UML supporters had turned Maoist supporters. Enraged by their lowly status, the UML party workers angrily disputed with the election bureaucrats and gave a false piece of news to radio and television stations that the election has been postponed at the centre while the election commission and observers denied the false propaganda.

Similarly, UML and Congress party workers in Dhading district had demonstrated weapons to prevent ordinary voters from going to the polling centers.

In Nuwakot, the armed gangs serving Nepali Congress leader Narsingh KC fired randomly against their rival party supporters.

Though there were some deaths on the polling day, no force was able to baffle the constituent assembly election, the key to the ongoing peace process.

The CPN (Maoist), the Nepali Congress and the UML have appeared the main competent forces across Nepal.

Latest vote count reports confirm that CPN (Maoist) Chairman Prachanda is far ahead of the NC and the UML in Kathmandu's Constituency number 10 where the global mass media have focused now.

Some unconfirmed reports about some vote boxes being kept in the camps of security forces without access to political representatives have created confusion among the people, who generally believe that Nepal's ruling political parties, uncomfortable with the arrival of new forces, have a pre-determined habit of rigging through different tricks. To add to the people's confusion, the Election Commission itself has not been able to transport the vote boxes to district headquarters on time. They claim to have rented foreign helicopters for the purpose, but they have annoyingly delayed the transportation of vote boxes.

No matter how clever the ruling parties might think they are, the majority of Nepalis have sought vast changes in all the existing feudal mechanisms. Whoever wins the majority in Nepal, they will have to face people's high aspirations. Those who hold leading positions will have to lead the overall peace process by implementing the provision of federal republic written in the interim constitution.

<https://www.groundreport.com/another-anti-peace-process-massacre-in-nepal/>

ANOTHER ANTI-PEACE PROCESS MASSACRE IN NEPAL

apr 9, 2008 | politics, world

The Armed Police under the command of Ex-Police Minister Khum Bahadur Khadka have massacred at least eight citizens on April 8 in Dang, Western Nepal. This is another anti-peace process massacre after the heart-pounding Gaur massacre in March 2007 when 29 civilians were killed in cold blood by Upendra Yadav-led criminal gangs from India and Nepal.

Dang-based Police Superintendent Deepak Thapa told reporters that the police had to open fire in order to protect themselves. But Dang-based journalist Hiralal K.C. gave the information that while Maoist cadres captured 33 suspected election mercenaries mobilized by Ex-Police Minister Khum Bahadur Khadka, the

Armed Police Force unnecessarily fired at Maoist cadres with the latest automatic weapons. According to journalist K.C., many political workers are still missing as the local administration imposed a curfew.

But the accounts of local eyewitnesses are different. They said that the incident took place at Lamahi Bazar before the eyes of the public. They complained that Armed Police acted as they were the private army serving only the ex-police minister without any consideration for their obligations to public security. They opened fire as soon as they sighted Maoist cadres on vehicles, locals say.

Similarly, Janadisha national daily of April 9 has stated that a great number of professional armed hooligans were mobilized in Dang where Khum Bahadur Khadka is one of the Nepali Congress candidates. As the Nepalis know him as one of the most corrupt leaders of Nepal, they even do not want to hear his name in the district. He was jailed several months due to a corruption scandal. Besides, media had published reports that he is a notorious gold smuggler. Some even accuse him of being an arms smuggler.

In the morning today, Maoist youth leader Ganesh Pun told media that many of his party cadres have been missing. He guessed that the number of deaths might go up since it was a sudden and one-sided firing with a latest automatic weapon.

In the mean time, Chairman Prachanda of the Communist Party of Nepal (Moist) has appealed for public restraint for making the April-10 constitution assembly poll a success as it is indispensable for the ongoing peace process equally successful.

Observers think the Nepali Congress has undersized itself by using such a publicly notorious person doing politics through criminal gangs.

According to some UML party workers of Dang, Khum Bahadur Khadka had won elections in the parliamentary elections by mobilizing thousands of mercenaries who rigged heavily in his favor. During previous elections too, he had killed people at the time of campaigning.

Besides, Khum Bahadur Khadka opposed people's mandate of federal republic and stood in favor of feudal monarchy.

According to Rajan Chaudhary of Dang, the candidature of Khadka has agitated the working class people there because they suffered fierce suppression and injustices under him previously.

So far, even human rights groups and professionally registered election observers have not been able to produce reports on so many incidents in a manner free from party-loyal blindness.

The Nepalis, especially the working class people, are in a rebellious mood on the eve of the constituent assembly polls because feudal mechanisms have created barriers to the peace process.

Reactionaries of Nepal have threatened ordinary and illiterate masses in rural parts of Nepal that if they vote for Maoist candidates, they are likely to be marked as supporters of terrorists and might be shot by the state forces in the near future. They have spread rumor among such ignorant people that electronic devices installed underground will record whom they vote. The election commission has issued a public notice that the voting will be secret and nobody will ever know whom one votes for.

Observation of different constituencies shows that people generally want to see Nepal change accelerating through the ex-rebel leadership. They have expressed their disappointment with the previously ruling parties the Nepali Congress and the UML.

<https://www.groundreport.com/anti-press-freedom-scandal-in-nepal/>

ANTI-PRESS FREEDOM SCANDAL IN NEPAL

apr 7, 2008 | politics, world

Information sources affiliated to Nepal's Election Commission have indicated that a latent royal election commission within the official election commission was able to stop an evening news and views program from being broadcast from Radio Nepal on April 6. While the program team was broadcasting the news and views coverage on the public speeches delivered by rebel leaders Prachanda and Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, they did not know that the program was limited to the studio room and it was not being transmitted to the public. Instead of the usual program, the technician was broadcasting long tunes. When some audience members themselves complained why the program was not being broadcast, the team members were then told that there was some technical trouble. But when the program time ended, the next program on queue was broadcast without any problem.

The sources claimed that there is a latent royal election commission within the existing official election commission headed by a monarchist bureaucrat. This

underground force with a grip on Radio Nepal mechanisms has hijacked the program. "The regressive forces are against the peace process, and this is one of their efforts to prevent the mass media from broadcasting differing views."

This happened in the evening of the same day when rebel leader Prachanda in the morning had emphasized on the need to reconsider the change-resisting and ideologically prejudiced mindset of the mass media.

Nepal's Maoist rebels have been engaged in an intensive peace process for almost two years. They have agreed to join the mainstream peaceful politics on condition that other monarchist parties also agree on federalism, state restructuring and the abolition of monarchy. Because other parties agreed on the Maoist agenda, they agreed to deposit their arms and guerrillas in the cantonments monitored by the UN.

The Nepali Congress and the Emaalay, dragged hard by the Maoist rebels, have written 'republic' and 'federalism' in their Party documents as part of their formal decision to adjust to the peace process agenda, but in practice these parties have not yet come out of the monarchial circle of politics. International forces ideologically prejudiced against Nepal's rebels have also encouraged these change-resisting parties to be highly offensive against Nepal's progressive forces. However, the Nepalis have expressed their keen desire to see an opportunity for vast changes in the country.

The Radio Nepal scandal could be linked to this attitude of change-resisting parties. Their everyday media propaganda clearly shows their high level intolerance against any other political party that challenges the feudal monarchy and uni-structuralism.

As to the scandal, Radio Nepal Director Ram Sharan Karki said that he did not have any information about this. It shows it was part of reactionary conspiracy against progressive forces in the country. During king's autocracy, too, radio stations were invaded and BBC-broadcasting equipment were grabbed from Radio Sagarmatha. This might be another pulse-check. But surprisingly, the major political parties, so busy in election campaigns, have not commented on this scandal. Even Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), Election Commission, and national and international human rights institutions have not spoken on the anti-press freedom scandal.

Nepal's champions of press freedom have not opened their mouth on this.

<https://www.groundreport.com/symbol-of-nepals-national-unity-diversity/>

SYMBOL OF NEPAL'S NATIONAL UNITY: DIVERSITY

apr 5, 2008 | opinion, world

For almost 240 years, political forces of Nepal had been reinforcing feudal monarchy as the greatest symbol of national unity. But feudal monarchy had been throttling democracy for the luxuries of a few elites, who never minded starving millions.

When millions of Nepalis rose up against the hereditary Rana regime in 1950, the Rana rulers compromised with India for remaining safe in Nepal and for positions and possessions. They had not made a compromise to empower the Nepalis but to maintain their dominance in different subtle ways. Independent scholars can still find the most privileged positions of Ranas in Nepal even today. This proves that the New Delhi-mediated compromise in 1950, in reality, did not intend to democratize and enhance Nepal. If the New Delhi-based compromise between India, Rana rulers and the Nepali Congress were in the Nepalis' favor, they would not have to continue their anti-feudalism struggles even after 58 years today.

The constituent assembly poll is going to be held on April 10 for the most vital purpose of formally terminating the existing feudal rule. Against this feudal rule, Maoists had been engaged in armed insurgency from 1996 to 2006. About 15,000 people were reportedly killed (hundreds remain still disappeared.) during the decade-long armed insurgency. Most of them were killed by the state, as media and human rights reports have confirmed.

The feudal regime, with which different parties such as the Nepali Congress and the Emaalay cooperated in the near past, launched a military coup d'etat in February 2005 and censored people's daily life by defying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. King Gyanendra, as the chief representative of the feudal regime, acted as the active chairman of the cabinet. He tried to justify his autocracy on the basis of the US war on terror. King Gyanendra tried to depict Nepal's political insurgency as similar to Al Qaedaian terrorism. His regime obtained military, economic and technical assistance from the US Administration, India and the European Union in the name of defeating Maoist 'terrorism' in Nepal. His approach of blind suppression without considering people's suffering and their sympathy with the insurgents carrying their agenda further isolated him from the majority of people. This is how the atmosphere for the abolition of monarchy further developed in Nepal.

During the feudal regime's counterinsurgency period, the feudal rulers, including their secondary forces Nepali Congress and Emaalay never raised the insurgents' grassroots agenda for discussion purposes. They thought it would be a huge treason to discuss the grassroots agenda.

While the Maoist rebels had demanded for the constituent assembly to end feudalism and establish an inclusive republic, the monarchist forces, including the Nepali Congress and the Emaalay, treated such an agenda as something detestable. Today, the Nepali Congress and the Emaalay argue that they are the most people-loving democratic parties in Nepal. Although they have officially declared themselves as republicans, people will have to wait and see what type of role they are going to play in the coming constituent assembly. It is true that they have considerable numbers of supporters with them. But the way they treat the majority agenda (working class people's concerns) shows they have not still made up their mind to come out of the feudal infrastructures. One vivid proof of this is their insistence on maintaining all the existing feudal mechanisms based on which they are contesting the constituent assembly polls because they believe they can still secure their privileges with the help of such mechanisms.

The Nepali Congress, the Emaalay and the Sadbhawana Party (Ananda Devi), members of the Seven Party Coalition government, have agreed to deploy the army in an undeclared form. The comprehensive peace accord signed with the Maoist rebels prohibits them from mobilizing army without the rebels' consent. But they have unilaterally decided to mobilize the army on April 10 though the rebels have opposed the decision. They say there has been no such decision with their consent. What is notable in this context is that the parties previously in state power under the leadership of the feudal monarchy are still making efforts to secure their positions by mobilizing the army, which is customarily sympathetic to the monarchy. It is extremely surprising and ironical that the parties labeling themselves as 'democratic' cling to feudal concepts, attitudes and mechanisms against their own advocacy of democracy and human rights. A few months ago, Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's daughter and current de facto Prime Minister Sujata Koirala told the Nepali service of BBC that she favored monarchy in Nepal. She said monarchy was a symbol of national unity and so it deserved its protection. She said so against the norms of the interim constitution in which the republic has been written. In fact, this opinion of hers was far too outdated because by utilizing the tag of 'national unity,' Nepal's feudal monarchy divided people, manufactured artificial consensus through media manipulation and buried grassroots agenda. The feudal monarchy for 240 years became such a 'symbol of national unity' under which people's human dignity was enslaved. Monarchist intellectuals still preach such a symbol. Such intellectuals cultured by feudalism will never understand what the symbol of Nepal's national unity is. The state restructuring agenda include the representation of all ethnicities, socially stratified and regionally isolated communities. People from all walks of life participated in the April uprising of 2006. All kinds of communities rose up

against the feudal regime continuously defying the military curfews up to 19 days. This was and is the unity within diversity, never forgettable. Thus, diversity is the best symbol of Nepal's national unity. Diversity can be utilized most productively to make Nepal one of the most democratic and prosperous nations. Diversity may also be misused to divide Nepal. Feudalists are trying to misuse diversity to divide Nepal and to establish medieval natured regencies. It is apparent that only privileged and elite rulers are going to lose heavily after the constituent assembly polls in Nepal. The process of mainstreaming all the deprived communities will begin through the work of drafting a new constitution based on the synthesized concept of federal republic. Feudalists will try to ignite people's diversity violently while the drafting work is on. This is what all the political forces, who are in favor of national unity, must incessantly remind themselves of.

<https://www.groundreport.com/concern-over-voters-security-in-nepal/>

CONCERN OVER VOTERS' SECURITY IN NEPAL

apr 4, 2008 | politics, world

According to Gorkhanews.com, a criminal gang on 4 April has shot dead a farmer while he was reaping wheat in his field in Bara district bordering India. Similarly, Nepal's major mass media have commonly disseminated the information that anti-democracy criminal gangs on 4 April have exploded several bombs in Birgunj, injuring many. The bombs went off in busy market areas. The clear target of the criminal gangs seems to be the ordinary civilian population. This shows an obviously nonpolitical and criminal nature of the gangs, whatever tags they may carry. Amidst the growing civilian insecurity, even human rights monitoring has become more difficult. Perhaps because of this security crisis, hundreds of human rights violations have not yet been exposed publicly. Due to this situation, the Nepal government's estimate of the overall security atmosphere might have been superficial.

Indo-Nepal border has not been sealed off though the local Nepalis inhabiting border villages have complained that hundreds of fierce criminal and professional gangs from India have with arms entered Nepal to serve Nepali political parties (especially regional parties assisted politically, financially and technically by their Indian counterparts) for election purposes. Although talks between Nepali Home Administration authorities and Indian government officials have been going on for almost two weeks regarding sealing off the border to prevent heinous massacres during the coming 10 April constituent assembly polls, no clear-cut decision has

yet been made regarding this. The delay in deciding about especially controlling border for election purposes has been attributed to the top leaders of the seven parties that are in the coalition government.

Everyday robberies in the Nepali villages bordering India are usual incidents that often lead the concerned Nepalis to believe that they lack state because they feel extremely unsafe in their settlements. Robbers relaxingly perform their crimes and escape through the border. It has happened regularly for almost 16 years. The Nepali security personnel deployed there often claim that they have been doing their best to control robberies. But the local people find the moral background of security mechanisms quite weak.

The security concern in the Indo-Nepal border regions of Nepal has sharpened since some previously ruling political parties such as the Nepali Congress and the UML do not imagine of staying any more in power without the direct assistance and counseling of Indian authorities. For example, it has become quite a normal practice for the Indian ambassador to Nepal to counsel the chief leaders of these parties. This political slave-mindedness has further worsened Nepal's political and economic over-dependency.

Since media reports have confirmed that huge quantities of weapons have been smuggled into Nepal with a special mission to derail the country's peace process and the efforts to restructure Nepal, the Nepalis feel very insecure. In this situation, the Nepal government has a special responsibility to ensure civilian security. For this, it requires to function on a principled basis, without being influenced by ideological prejudices and intolerance.

As the historical constituent assembly polls intending to formalize the agreement of federal republic mandated by the historically unprecedented April uprising of 2006 is going to be held on 10 April, some armed resistance efforts on behalf of the outgoing feudal monarchy are expected. Therefore, Nepal government's seriousness regarding the voters' life security has been naturally sought throughout the country. In this context, some political parties blindfolded with their monopolistic apolitical character molded during their corrupt heydays have to think about their voters' security.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-maoists-willing-to-establish-diplomatic-relations-with-usa-and-europe/>

NEPAL'S MAOISTS WILLING TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH USA AND EUROPE

apr 2, 2008 | politics, world

Addressing a mass gathering in Kathmandu on 2 April, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and Supreme Commander of People's Liberation Army (PLA) Prachanda said that his party on behalf of the grassroots Nepalis would like to establish diplomatic relations with the USA. Amidst hundreds of thousands of ordinary masses, he said, "America or Europe need not be afraid of us. We want peace. We want a sovereign and prosperous Nepal. Advocating the majority's grassroots agenda is not extremism." He referred to his informal hearing of reports that some power players in foreign countries were preparing for preventing measures against the transformative agenda of the Nepalis, who fought for ten years to materialize their dream of drastic changes.

Addressing the gathering, another senior leader of the party Dr. Baburam Bhattarai said his party was in favor of New Nepal not as a slogan but in substance. For this, he said "new leadership, new concepts and transformative agenda" were needed.

Senior literary figure and columnist Khagendra Sangraula suggested the Maoist leaders and cadres to be more self-restrained and polite as their antagonistic forces would want to derail the peace process by exaggerating even minor incidents. He urged the people to use their best conscience for defeating the rotten and corrupt forces through the constituent assembly polls. For this, he said that Maoist leaderships were comparatively much better for implementing the grassroots agenda of New Nepal and that he believed in the Maoist leadership though he was not a Maoist cadre himself.

Famous national singers and musicians Ramesh Shrestha, Shambhu Rai and other artists had performed vocals in the program. They also urged the people to choose the Maoist leaderships as they were determined and honest enough to implement people's agenda.

<https://www.groundreport.com/dont-be-pol-pot-be-ortega-madhav-nepal/>

DON'T BE POL POT, BE ORTEGA: MADHAV NEPAL

mar 29, 2008 | politics, world

General Secretary of the United Marxist-Leninist (UML), speaking in an election campaign gathering in Kathmandu today said that Nepal's Maoists were terrorists

and monarchists working against the very norms of democracy. Out of his 85 minutes of speech, he spent almost 65 minutes on trying to teach people that the Maoists do not believe in democracy and peaceful politics and that people must believe in the UML because it was a genuine people-based party. He was asking for votes for his party stating that the UML is the only capable party of Nepal and no other party has that capacity. In the middle of speech, Madhav Nepal alluded to Maoist Chairman Prachanda as Pol Pot believing only in military arrogance. In an educative manner, Nepal said, "Those who believe in military arrogance and not in people's power, they will have to suffer Pol Pot's fate. Pol Pot even did not get anybody to go on his funeral procession though he was a military hero during his reign." Adding to his expression, he said, "Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua is the President because he believed in people's power."

General Secretary Nepal equally spent a considerable amount of his time on defending feudal mechanisms that have never agreed to work as per the people's mandate for progressive changes in the country. He did not speaking a single word against the crimes against humanity and those involved in them. Instead, he strongly demanded that no body do anything against those involved in crimes against humanity. Many people were surprised as he spoke for maintaining impunity.

Another monarchist leader within the UML party, Khadga Oli also spent most of his time on speaking against his party's rival, Maoists. He referred to the Nepali Congress Party and his own party UML as bulls while he referred to Maoists as calf. He said, "When two bulls are fighting, an oversmart calf may be crushed between them." Many people gave a laughter when they heard this expression.

Maoists and many UML supporters themselves have accused Mr. Oli of being a monarchist. During King's direct rule in Nepal, Mr. Oli suggested in his party that they should not agitate people against monarchy. Mr. Oli is also known as an extremist rightist within the UML party.

While Madhav Kumar Nepal was speaking as if he was so people-loving a leader in Nepal, many people on the ground were referring to how he easily supported King's autocracy and instructed his party leaders to join the suppressive regime. Similarly, people were talking about the UML's growing corporate elitism that could please only the middle class and elite people while angering the working class. One of the middle-aged men in a group of about 25 took out a paper and showed to others. The paper contained a printed text of the letter written by Madhav Nepal to King asking for prime ministership. It was an application for the post of prime minister written when King Gyanendra advertised the job. The letter was a copied text with the signature of Madhav Nepal he had categorically said in it that as he had got support from other parties, he was eligible for becoming the prime minister. The letter could remind one of the 2005 period in Nepal

where King had been ruling the country by hijacking democracy and the parties were agitating against King's rule.

While only 12 days remain for the constituent assembly in Nepal, the UML and Maoists have been staging fights throughout Nepal. People are worried about their own security as far as their duty to vote is conce

<https://www.groundreport.com/weapons-scandal-coverup-in-nepal/>

WEAPONS SCANDAL COVERUP IN NEPAL

mar 26, 2008 | politics, world

The Nepal government led by the Nepali Congress has forcefully snatched back the closed weapon-loaded trucks captured by the Maoist cadres in Rupandehi district. On the night of March 24th, a border-based Nepali intelligence source had leaked the information that three Indian trucks were coming with weapons and their accessories because they were not checked at the border. Former insurgents (Maoists), who have been deeply suspicious of the underhand activities of the Nepali Congress and the UML to annihilate them by creating an atmosphere of confrontation in the coming elections, captured the trucks demanding to open them to the public. But the government sent hundreds of armed policemen to snatch back the mysterious trucks. The Maoist cadres and the armed policemen confronted the whole night, and finally the government forces recaptured the trucks.

As the locals were sure that the trucks were carrying the latest weapons smuggled in by criminal gangs under the protection of certain government elites, the Maoists kept on resisting the armed police for several hours.

Nobody had taken responsibility for those weapon-loaded trucks earlier. When the local administration requested the Home Affairs either to arrest the concerned smuggling gang or to take responsibility by itself, the Home Affairs lied to the people that the trucks were carrying only logistics for the election. When the people protesting in the streets throughout the night demanded that the trucks be opened and the contents be shown to them, the government imposed a curfew and took the vehicles away from there.

Because of the suspicious methods adopted by the government, the people have no doubt that the trucks, as raised by the Maoists, definitely contained weapons.

The civilians concerned for their security have been more worried about the coming elections due to this mysterious incident. As the government violated people's right to information and remained quite nontransparent on the weapon scandal, the Maoists called a general strike in Rupandehi, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi on March 25th.

Maoists organized a nationwide short wheel-down program too. Although it is a direct violation of the Election Code and also a sensitive security issue related to people's day-to-day life, the Election Commission and human rights institutions are silent over it.

Surprisingly, the Nepali Congress and the UML have not spoken a single word about the weapon scandal and people's security in the coming elections.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-china-border-highly-sensitive/>

NEPAL-CHINA BORDER HIGHLY SENSITIVE

mar 18, 2008 | politics, world

Although the Nepal government has been restating her support for One-China policy, she has not been able to halt the year-round infiltration of Tibetans through the Himalayan points. The Dalai Lama supporters have apparently been using Nepal as the major transit point for going to India and the USA. Especially during King Mahendra's period, about 30,000 Tibetans were accepted as refugees in Nepal, say informal sources. However, the Nepal government has not been able to produce reliable official data regarding the Tibetans settled in Nepal. Most of them have been running carpet industries and relevant markets in Nepal.

After the collapse of the partyless autocratic Panchayat regime, some Tibetan refugees began to raise voices of Tibetan independence with the help of some pro-Nepali Congress human rights activists, journalists and some other international human rights organizations. Yet, no big struggles on behalf of the Tibetans have been noticed in Nepal.

Some Tibetans openly admit that they can buy citizenship certificate for NRs.5000.00. It shows that Nepal's district administration is very loose. But the district administration says that they distribute citizenship certificate to people

only after they get recommendations from political representatives from Village Development Committees since village representatives clearly know who was born there and who was not.

Tibetans look like the Mangolian Nepalis who live in the Himalayan region.

As nationality researcher Saddhya Bahadur Bhandari has time and again spoken to Nepal's national media and categorically said that corrupt political representatives in different districts in Nepal have sold citizenship certificates to almost three million Indians, this possibility cannot be ruled out also in the context of pro-independence Tibetans, who may have preferred to make Nepal a homework place.

In the meantime, the Nepal government has claimed it has tightened its security systems in the Nepal-China border. Perhaps it was just responding to the Tibetan protests in front of the UN Office in Kathmandu on 17 March.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-polls-battle-for-change/>

NEPAL POLLS BATTLE FOR CHANGE

mar 14, 2008 | politics, world

Following the April uprising in 2006, Nepal has at least found a mandate for the overall transformation of the Nepalis' lives. No doubt, people's overall transformation implies qualitative changes in political, socio-economic and cultural spheres. Although the paper work done by the ever-divided Seven Party Alliance cannot be termed as the tremendous changes from grassroot perspectives, it can at least serve to create pressures to implement commitments in the future.

Some pro-establishment intellectuals (inclined to puritanical evolutionism) have considered paper declarations as tremendous changes. But the Nepalis want to find certain things before they can accept the declarations as truth. For example, the growing impunity has been completely ignored with the dramatization of the Rayamajhi Probe Commission and the immunization of crimes against humanity. With this immunization of the existing impunity, more crimes have been institutionalized in Nepal. Perhaps crime control mechanisms themselves must have been facing difficulty defining and classifying crimes since even purely

criminal activities such as robberies, rapes, civilian murders and abduction have also been labeled as political exercises.

It could be of higher interest to non-Nepali legal and human rights researchers that Nepal's laws are mainly implemented at ordinary people's levels while those who held or hold political and socio-economic power are gifted with impunity. This irony of the rule of law has not but helped to further criminalize the nation's politics. It has equally contributed to the justification for insurgency that usually develops into armed conflicts following the brutal suppression of peaceful voices.

There may be difficulties in reducing the level of impunity since it is something deep-rooted. One obvious reason for not being able to reduce the level of impunity is the fact that deep-rooted feudal mechanisms remain as the chief barriers to the implementation of laws and newer declarations. But this reason must not be the excuse for promoting impunity.

The promotion of impunity, in fact, means the promotion of crimes. The rise of crimes further nurtures the criminal mentality of people. Even suffering masses, in the name of resisting crimes, will be part of the whole criminalization process. This is where intelligence experts, legal and human rights communicators have to exercise more seriously.

The constituent assembly polls scheduled for 10 April 2008 will definitely accelerate the polarization of the country's politics, leading to the renewal of conflicts in different other forms. The symptoms are clear for serious observers. Pro-change and anti-change forces are doing their best within the Seven Party Alliance to establish their political agenda. Especially, those who had served feudal monarchy in the past have frequently pronounced the agenda of the Maoist insurgents while trying to obliterate them totally. In March 2007, there was a massacre in Gaur where 29 Maoist cadres and supporters were selected and killed before the eyes of Nepal government security personnel. It was mainly geared towards dismantling the peace process and revoking war. From conflict management point of view, this is not a fair game. Nevertheless, the international community took this massacre very lightly due to their ideological intolerance. If the working class people have to face life insecurity from anti-change forces even when everyone has been advocating for inclusive democracy, more violence may follow in the future.

Although all of the mainstream political forces, be they pro-change or anti-change, have agreed to participate in the constituent assembly (CA) polls, they do not mean the same thing. They have understood the agenda of the constituent assembly in different ways and will do their best to use it the way they want. The Nepali Congress and the UML want to protect their prevailing positions. They want to minimize the influence of the insurgents. But the

insurgents mostly supported by the rural working class people want to establish themselves as the new rulers. They have sharp contradictions with the US Administration that has still labeled them as terrorists. They also have serious contradictions with India towards where Nepal's foreign policy has tilted 99 percent. As part of their strategy, they will try to promote their relations with China, trying to reduce Nepal's excessive dependence on India.

The monarchist forces are trying to make use of every available loophole. They try to catalyze violence among the forces competing for the CA polls. Many regard the monarch as the de facto ruler in Nepal because almost all the ruling mechanisms have been serving monarchy and its deep-rooted structures instead of pro-change forces. The monarchy still equipped with a die-hard army loyal to it. It is immune to any constitutional and legal provisions. It has properties that no mechanism can tax. It even owns the undefined area of land in different parts of the country. No mechanism can approach and question it for legal and research purposes. Thus, there is a wide gulf between monarchy and ordinary people. This is where the main problem of policy implementation lies. The declarations of the Seven Party Alliance have thus been limited to paper.

The existing situation of policy non-implementation in Nepal shows the possibility of the prolongation of the ongoing crisis. The 10-April CA will intensify the process of ideological polarization. The mass media have already displayed their ideological polarization symptoms.

The ongoing phenomena in Nepal also indicates that the majority of people will still have to suffer as the pro-change and anti-change forces will fight each other during the period of drafting a new constitution meant to be the document of state restructuring and transformation. The participating forces will by hook or crook try to dismiss their political adversaries by drafting a new constitution in their own favor.

The majority of poverty-stricken masses knowingly or unknowingly expect better changes in their lives. Their sub-conscious mind votes for pro-transformation forces, not for those who dream of giving continuity to their corrupt and immoral rule. Therefore, the constituent assembly is the issue of identifying pro-change and anti-change forces. A wrong identification will lead to an ill-management of the major conflicts between the state and the Maoist insurgent

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-need-for-international-support/>

NEPAL'S NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

mar 11, 2008 | politics, world

In 1990, Indian leaders came to Kathmandu and expressed their whole-hearted support to the democratic movement that the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front were planning to launch soon. Indeed, India was encouraging the Nepalis to fight for democracy. Standing in favor of the Nepalis' democratic movement was their contribution. With this Indian support for Nepal's democratic movement, it became easy for the Nepalis to get European and American support too. Thus, the international support the Nepalis got for their democratic movement was a serious blow to the partyless Panchayat regime guided by the feudal monarchy (also known as autocracy). The regime collapsed in April 1990.

The Nepalis, in the phase of applying democracy at people's levels, had expected the same type of cooperation from India and other friendly countries. Unfortunately, the Nepali leaderships, especially the Nepali Congress and the United Marxists-Leninist (UML) could not prove their statecraft for applying democracy at the people's levels; As moral poverty was a major cause for their fragile statecraft. In absence of moral strength, will power cannot prevail. A ceremonial rule without will power cannot bring about changes in people's lives. This was true in the context of the ruling forces that came to power after the 1990 constitutional changes in the country.

Since people's aspirations reflected in the anti-Panchayat people's movement in 1990 were seriously hurt by the ruling forces, people had high levels of frustrations. A major cause of the Maoist insurgency that emerged in 1996 has generally been attributed to the high level of explosive frustrations constructed by the political and moral bankruptcy of the Nepali Congress and the UML. In this context, the UML often argues that since the Congress was in power most of the times while the UML was in the Opposition, it took little responsibility for the consequences. But the UML, as documented information proves, has equally contributed to the promotion of corruption and nepotism-favoritism. The UML, though it frequently talked of ill-governance, never proposed any constructive suggestions for replacing ill-governance with good governance. Besides, they supported the Nepali Congress government.

The UML even played a decisive role in handing over Nepal's original right to the Mahakali river to the Indian side in 1998. It joined hands with autocratic forces in forming governments. In essence, it could not play the role of a constructive Opposition. Instead, it played a confident role in maintaining the status quo. As a result, the Nepalis had to go on suffering even after the formal termination of the partyless Panchayat autocracy.

Surprisingly, the international community was not very aware about the deep-rooted feudal mechanism in Nepal. India, America and Europe supported the political forces that promoted corruption, nepotism-favoritism and ill-governance. The Nepalis' sufferings remained overshadowed while the World Bank and the

Asian Development Bank encouraged more loans, which were embezzled to a great extent by power-holders. Loan-givers often described as loan-embezzlers were seen as genuine democrats while they misunderstood change-seeking forces as instability-creating elements. This wrong mindset existed within the framework of international relations and has not done good to humanity.

If our practices in international relations are confined to the traditional power equations and polarizations dictated by self-centered national interests, loan-governed good governance advocacy alone is not going to produce better results. While feudal mechanisms are decisive in every sector in most under-developed nations, encouraging them and discouraging transformation concept and efforts would be counterproductive.

As far as the international community is concerned, it is their moral obligation to support the working class people's struggles geared at the overall transformation of their society.

After a decade-long armed conflict, Nepal is on the way to conflict transformation. But the conflict transformation in Nepal is not that easy since incorporating diverse concerns into the state-restructuring strategy seems to be quite a big challenge. On the one hand, feudalist, rightist and status-quoist forces have been making every effort to keep all mechanisms under their traditional control and on the other, working class forces have been trying to change the status quo. To transform conflicts in Nepal, the working class people's desire for changes should be respected.

The international community that lent their support to the Nepali movement for democracy and human rights cannot be expected to side with the regressive forces. The regressive mindset governing a number of the top-ranking Nepali Congress and the UML leaders is working as a chief barrier to the smooth transition from feudalism to full-fledged democracy.

Thus, the regressive mindset is the issue that the international community, should understand as a problem. The working class people's change-seeking efforts must not be the headaches for the international community. This is the crux of the matter regarding whom to support to help Nepal's peace process.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-contras-and-their-sponsors/>

NEPAL'S CONTRAS AND THEIR SPONSORS

mar 7, 2008 | politics, world

Feudal forces consolidated by status-quoist forces of Nepal have indulged in anti-change strategies for long. The Nepalis toppled the direct royal regime through a 19-day blockbuster mass movement in April 2006. The Maoist insurgents, who were involved in the decade-long armed insurgency against the existing feudal monarchy in the country, took the lead in the peaceful movement. Excited by this peaceful move of the insurgents, millions of people spontaneously took out to the streets and supported the Maoist insurgents for the attainment of republican system in Nepal. The status-quoist forces of Nepal were appalled by the people's uncompromising stand for the establishment of the republican Nepal.

As the Nepalis continuously defied the 19-day military curfews and firmly stood against any form of monarchy, the status-quoist forces within the movement leadership framework did make a secret understanding with the monarchy at the advice of New Delhi and the US Administration. The dissolved House of Representatives was reinstituted in order to provide longevity to the dying monarchy.

After the House was restored, the status-quoist forces did everything to maintain monarchy; however, they were compelled by people to make some pro-public declarations as well.

In the meantime, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sent its leaders to Kathmandu to instigate Nepal's communal parties to exercise towards reviving monarchy. A visionless group called Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) suddenly emerged violently. Overnight thousands of professional and trained mercenaries from India were used against the Nepali communities. The Terai people were frightened. The MJF was not heard before. It wildly massacred 29 civilians in Gaur in 2007. The status-quoist parties of Nepal were very happy because the killed ones were the party supporters and workers of the former insurgents. And the killers were free from any legal interrogations and actions. Because of impunity, they continued their communalist politics more vigorously.

Today, more than 50 percent of Nepal's Terai region (Indo-Nepal border) has been affected by the imported communal violence and decent politics is tolerated there. Only one-sided communal politics has been allowed there by communal leaderships. Thus, with zero political visions, the communal forces aided by Indian communal forces have been endangering Nepal's democracy. Especially, the MJF, aided by external forces as a contra force, has been playing a counterrevolutionary role at present. And many independent scholars of the Terai region have been demanding that this force be de-communalized and revolutionized for the overall transformation of the suffering masses in the Terai region.

The Rastriya Janashakti Party (RJP), one of Nepal's conservative parties, with rapport with the BJP, has been active to restore the feudal monarchy.

There are some others trying to move to and fro, with a vacillating idea. Should such rightist, feudal and communal forces rise again, the Nepalis will have to take a harsh step for the final settlement of their national political crisis.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-maintaining-feudal-customs/>

NEPAL GOVERNMENT MAINTAINING FEUDAL CUSTOMS

mar 5, 2008 | politics, world

Even after the sacrifices of more than 15,000 Nepali citizens for the sake of full-fledged democracy that can be free from feudal monarchy, the Nepal government has so far maintained all the feudal mechanisms in the country despite people's pressures that they should be dismantled and replaced by people-oriented mechanisms. The major forces, previously active under King's regime and now in the Seven Party Coalition, have not been able to convince the majority of the Nepalis that they will assume a different character even after the Constituent Assembly polls meant to map up a new design of Nepal's political and socio-economic structures. To this day, the political forces with the claims to make a 'New Nepal' have not produced any convincing outlines for state restructuring.

The Nepali society ruled for centuries by feudal ideology and practices is in a difficult position at present since contradictions between the existing ruling classes composed of feudal elites and status-quoist political parties and the progressive political forces seeking tremendous changes in the political and socio-economic structures are likely to sharpen in the days to come. Many fear that these contradictory forces may combat each other in the name of the constituent assembly and facilitate a playground for other undesirable forces.

The most powerful central leaders of the Nepali Congress with landlordly background have been subtly defending monarchy despite their party declaration that they have adopted the policy of democratic republic. Current Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala had been advocating for the preservation of monarchy in any form. Due to widespread objections from all change-minded political quarters, he has now ceased to pronounce it; his daughter and a central leader in the party Sujata Koirala has now and then spoken for some sort of monarchy.

Since she, too, has been bitterly criticized for her stand in favor of feudal monarchy, she has recently uttered something vague while in India. She said that she cannot speak for monarchy because Nepal's interim constitution has adopted the path of republic.

However, declarations on paper do not seem to be enough for those who argue for republic in Nepal. Most of the ordinary masses are highly dissatisfied not only with the mafia-friendly attitude of the current government but also with the feudalism-friendly character. For example, not a single measure has been taken by the government to make people feel that the country's vital security mechanisms have been improved.

Class-based privileges and exploitation are still getting consolidated. Factories still make workers toil for a remuneration not worth for living a life of human dignity. No labor law has been implemented though the government has always hurried to sign in various ILO commitments. Similarly, the government has not taken any initiative to initiate the process of ending the inhuman practice of caste untouchability. Because of this racial discrimination (the UN General Assembly has not yet taken it as a racial issue), almost five million Nepali working class citizens have been deprived of their human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Thus, the unhindered feudal practice like this has clearly indicated that the current Nepal government intends to maintain feudal customs for their selfish ends.

To prove this, there are other facts to state. The Nepal government has not been able to protect its citizens from daily murder crimes, robberies and attacks while it has shown a high degree of concern for the security of feudal bigwigs who own a huge portion of land. For example, it has become a common fact today that the Nepal government has deployed thousands of troops in the Royal Palace for the security of royal members.

Media reports in Kathmandu have recently confirmed that the Nepal government's religious trust Guthi Sansthan is going to distribute alms worth millions to the about two hundred thousand Indian beggars, who have come to Nepal on the occasion of Hindu Festival Mahashivaratri.

The huge amount of money to be customarily distributed to Indian beggars actually belongs to the Nepalis' national revenue. From the national revenue, previously the king used to distribute it. Celebrating festivals and following one's spiritual faiths definitely belongs to human rights. But why the Nepal government has shown its interest in maintaining feudal and monarchical customs in this way is beyond understanding. Squandering people's money in the name of alms is not a democratic exercise, nor is it a productive idea.

Another evidence for this is the Nepali calendar. Most of the holidays in Nepal are related to Hindu worshipping. As Nepal is a country with absolute poverty at grassroot level, she needs more work and time management. But the government has been working to maintain status quo, not to transform the degrading situation.

The Mahashivaratri festival is tomorrow (March 6, 2008). It is a Hindu festival when devotees worship Lord Shiva with a belief that they would be done good to. Ascetics and other devotees smoke hashish in the name of God. Ascetics even sell hundreds of cigarette sticks filled with hashish. Thousands Nepali adolescents, youths and foreign tourists gather at the Pashupatinath Temple premises to taste the hashish filled by the hands of ascetics. The Nepal government has not banned the sale and use of hashish within the Pashupatinath Temple premises during the Mahashivaratri day. But the nation's law has banned it at other times.

However, the Nepalis look optimistic that such self-contradictory practices in democracy will slowly vanish when the actual process of restructuring begins after the constituent assembly polls.

<https://www.groundreport.com/children-illegally-imprisoned-in-nepal/>

CHILDREN ILLEGALLY IMPRISONED IN NEPAL

feb 26, 2008 | politics, world

A district chief of Nepal, who is also the chairperson of District Child Welfare Committee, has jailed five children under 16 years of age against the law of Nepal, according to the Nayapatrika daily published on 27 February. Imprisoning children with adult prisoners is not allowed by Nepal's law. It is surprising that Nepal's law enforcement head of a district does not bother about acting according to the law.

Surkhet district Chief Anil Kumar Pandey has asked the five under-16 children, accused of telephone wire theft, a bail amount of Rs.158,000 (nearly US\$2500.00) each. Ghanashyam Chaudhari, Karna BK, Man Bahadur BK, Kaluram Chaudhari and Shakti Nepali, ranging from 14 to 15 years of age, all belong to the deprived community and cannot afford the bail amount for their release. As they have not paid the bail amount demanded by the district administration, they are still in jail for more than nine weeks.

The accusations labeled on them have not been verified through systematic investigations. In Nepal, most of the court cases are settled on the basis of statements signed in the police custody.

Nepal's law clearly states that children whose crimes have been proved must not be kept along with adult prisoners. They instead should be housed separately so as to improve their habits through education and training.

Nepal's district heads are known as CDOs (Chief District Officers). They are expected to be fair and justice-minded public administrators. But just the opposite is happening. Most of the CDOs are appointed not on the basis of moral and intellectual merits but on the basis of their business and political links. They visit businesspersons and political leaders personally in their houses and reduce their actual working hours in their public offices.

Because of their authority to mobilize security forces at any place at any time, they are considered the most powerful persons in a district. But as crimes have been on rise, people think the registered criminal cases have been a matter of brokering and illegal earning for some authorities.

When ordinary people visit district administration offices, it is customary to find district heads telephoning and arranging time for personally meeting businesspersons in their own apartments. This shows how removed Nepal's public authorities are from public-spirited services.

The talkers of New Nepal must understand such basics of public administration that has the official responsibility of implementing the law and order and performing day-to-day administrative jobs for the general public.

The imprisonment of the above-mentioned five children shows the level of the district chief's input and insight as regards his responsibility. At the same time, it gives a clue that there might be hundreds of other similar cases. A clerk working in the Lalitpur District Court said, "I still remember a case that came here 14 years ago. It was about the theft of a television set. A man was accused of stealing a television. He was a worker in a carpet factory at Godawari village. The accusation was not proved. Later, the police accused him of stealing telephone wire from the premises of Nepal Telecom at Jawalakhel. The police tortured him so much that he signed in the confession statement for survival." "The same year," the clerk adds, "I saw 18 persons belonging to the most deprived community in this district being charged with murder for which not a single piece of evidence was available."

This shows the way justice systems work in an ill-governed society. The World Bank and other international institutions regularly advocating for good governance should break their habit of determining their policy approaches on the basis of what elite rulers and their representatives prefer. Reaching the suffering and deprived communities is a challenge for all.

<https://www.groundreport.com/oil-stashed-underground-by-nepali-black-market/>

OIL STASHED UNDERGROUND BY NEPALI BLACK MARKET

feb 25, 2008 | politics, world

Although the Nepal government, through its mass media, declared on 25 February that the Essential Services Act would be enforced immediately, local people in the Kathmandu valley complain that millions of litres of petrol, diesel and kerosene have been hidden in underground tanks of black marketers and that the government officials, including security personnel, have nexus with them. Hundreds of vehicles have still been queuing up day and night for oil in the Kathmandu valley and there has been no obvious improvement in the situation.

Although political workers, political party sister wings and civil society members, including consumer forums have frequently been urging the government to raid the stores and houses of oil dealers, the government has not made the public feel the presence of administration in the country.

Taxi driver Bidur Lama says, "There is no law in the country. It's difficult for the workers to survive." A local tea shop owner nearby a petroleum pump says, "Many drivers get exhausted just because it's not sure to get oil even after a wait of 12 hours." She says this situation is not good for the general public though she can sell more tea and get more money because of the gathering of more drivers and vehicle owners.

Many oil dealers have close relationship with the executives of the government-owned Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC). There are yet-to-confirm reports that dozens of Nepal's private petrol pumps are owned by the family members and relatives of the nation's oil officials. The 22-month long oil scarcity has become quite mysterious.

Should the new government with a new mindset and a different moral character be formed, many government officials, smugglers and black marketers are likely to be dragged into legal actions. Blackbusiness people definitely prefer this crisis to prolong.

At present, Nepal is under a peace process monitored by the UN after a decade-long insurgency that sought the eradication of feudal rule for the political and socio-economic transformation of the Nepali society. The Nepalis want multidimensional transformation in their lives but feudal warlords have been setting barriers to the ongoing peace process.

The Nepalis have observed Indian regional hegemonism and the US Administration as the chief external barriers to this peace process because they have been doing their best to prevent the insurgents from coming to power. Should they be barred from participating in the peaceful political activities, the revocation of war is more possible. Frightened by such a possibility, the Nepalis, including the insurgents, have been determinedly going ahead with preparations for the coming Constituent Assembly polls schedule for 10 April 2008. Should the polls be held successfully, a new multi-ethnic and inclusive constitution aiming at the restructuring of the country is expected to be formulated.

However, monarchists have vowed to thwart this peace process. They have always stressed on monostructural rule based on the exclusion of all other majority communities in the Nepali society. They base on the feudal ideology dating back to centuries.

At present, monarchists have completely depended on the landlords and warlords of the Terai region of Nepal and also on the Hindu extremists of India who regard monarchy as the incarnation of Lord Bishnu. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other related Hindu pressure groups in India have adopted a strategy of foiling Nepal's peace process by cutting supplies to Nepal. The current shortage of supplies of oil has been considered part of the strategy. Yet, the Nepalis believe this is not the only cause for the crisis. They equally blame on domestic reactionaries resisting the possibility of any change that may not favor their petty interests.

In this context, the Nepal government appears to have failed to take the state's mechanisms under control. Some other forces seem to be doing that. Without government control of state mechanisms, it will not be possible to implement the Essential Services Act. Without effectively putting the Essential Services Act into actions, the polls cannot be held when the nation stops due to the cut-off of petroleum products throughout the country.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-under-regressive-mafia-rule/>

NEPAL UNDER REGRESSIVE MAFIA RULE

feb 19, 2008 | politics, world

As soon as the April uprising in 2006 ousted the direct monarchical rule, the Nepalis began to face oil shortage. Most people did not notice it then as it was not very acute. Now the oil shortage has become far acuter than it was 22 months ago.

The Seven Party Alliance, now in the government, was engaged in political debates, derailed very often. People's mandate of the April uprising was to transform the existing feudal structures that have always been the chief barriers to a full-fledged and multi-ethnic and inclusive democracy. But as most of the participants in the coalition government predicted their own interests in preserving the existing structures and their institutional patterns, a few of their change-seeking partners appeared defeated. However, some pro-public declarations have been made. But mere declarations would never suffice for a big change in a country ruled by feudal monarchy for centuries.

For beginning the process of big changes in the country, the first urgent thing they had to do was to democratize the mass media in a real sense. As the mass media themselves have been working as per their traditional patterns, they need to be restructured. The mass media with a feudal mindset cannot originally contribute to the mission of transforming other sectors. An unchanged media mindset seriously affects information selection, processing and presentation.

Similarly, it does not contribute to the mission of creating a multi-ideological, multi-ethnic and inclusive society. In other words, press freedom cannot mean much when the mass media advocate it but do not follow it within themselves. While the Nepali mass media have been advocating for press freedom, they have also knowingly or unknowingly been preserving ideological prejudices, intolerance and partisan interests. Consequently, the public interests have been little served, compared to the interests of traditional power gamblers.

Amidst such traditional power gamblers, the mass media have frequently demonstrated some sort of influence of the existing feudal structures. Consequently, they have not been able to go deeper even while the nation has almost stopped due to the devastating fuel scarcity. The second urgent thing that

the coalition government had to do after the April uprising in 2006 was to bring the drastic changes in the security, judiciary and civil apparatuses. Hardliner activists of the feudal regime are still fully active in such structures. The alliance government did this blunder. The basic fact is that the feudal monarchy is at the roots while the ruling seven parties are at the treetop. This is the contradiction. The acutest-ever fuel scarcity in the Nepali markets can be linked to this contradiction. Generally, business dealers have openly blackmarketed things to benefit from the scarcity.

People are being forced to pay higher bus fares monopolistically imposed by vehicle owners. But there is no sign of the existence of government. Government officials have this information but nobody knows what has prevented them from acting for the wellbeing of people. What cannot be forgotten in this context is that those who control government mechanisms belong to feudal background. They cannot think and act against their own class background. They can predict their own class interests in the preservation of feudal systems. Therefore, they think and act against the implementation of change-seeking policies and declarations.

As the 10-April-scheduled constituent assembly poll is likely to guarantee the restructuring provisions, including the abolition of feudal monarchy, the feudal forces enjoying their power in the existing structures definitely make planned efforts to disrupt the poll. This is a commonsense matter. But the Seven Party Alliance believed by the international community does not appear to have made adequate preparation to cope with any subsequent challenges. The greatest problem in this context is the apparent existence of change-resisting feudal forces within the ruling Alliance. This is the crux of the matter.

Understanding this crux of the matter also carries communication significance. Especially, media communicators have to present their honest and public-spirited analyses and interpretations. But this is not possible if editors and media owners politically polarize into unity.

Who is ruling Nepal at present is not clear. In appearance, the Seven Party Alliance headed by the Nepali Congress has the full-fledged authority given by the Interim Constitution. The Nepali Congress, composed of landlords, especially those belonging to the Indo-border Terai region, now has the presidential and prime ministerial authority, including the authority of Home Affairs, Defence portfolio and finance. The other six parties having different ministerial portfolios often complain that the Nepali Congress has not been working in conformity with the coalition morality and patterns. They have frequently blamed the Nepali Congress for being too monopolistic in decision-making. They complain that the Nepali Congress cabinet members rarely consult them while taking important decisions that have long-term impact on people's lives.

While the ordinary masses have been completely disrupted because of the cut-off of the regular supply of electricity, petroleum products, cooking gas and drinking water, the smugglers and black marketers have been celebrating their paradise.

There is no limitation to market prices. No logical criteria have been used for price hikes. Food prices have sharply gone up; as a result, the working class people with unreasonably low wages have been victimized the most. But the political parties look too perplexed to take any timely decision. People's question is 'Are they under mafia rule?'

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-government-missing/>

NEPAL GOVERNMENT MISSING?

feb 18, 2008 | politics, world

"We've been searching for the Nepal government for 22 months but in vain. It's missing," said a college lecturer in a deeply saddened tone. He was saying that there was the ritual Nepal government as far as reciting democracy was concerned, but its job was to protect all types of criminals that have done as much as they could against the ordinary masses. He referred to the monopoly of black marketers who have excessively exploited the people. There are laws in the country but so-called government has not had any guts to implement them because it is controlled by the mechanisms of mafia gangs," he angrily speaks up in a local cafe while he was also being watched with care by two middle-aged men nobody knew what institution they represented.

Perhaps the teacher might be correct. His perception cannot be considered too imaginary. In Nepal, everybody complains that corruption is all-pervasive; even cabinet members admit it exists strongly. But none of the concerned authorities can ever expose those involved in corruption. Ordinary people strongly believe that heavy corruption is involved while dealing with international contractors of hydro-electric projects. This must be the main reason why the Nepal government of any period emphasizes on hydro-electric projects worth billions of dollars, far higher amount than her national budgets.

So far many such expensive hydro-electric projects have not been able to deliver desired services to people. At present, 46-hour weekly load shedding has been

imposed on the people. Nepal's national productivity has sharply declined because of it.

However, the Nepal government has maintained its policy of selling electricity to India at a nominal price. The policy looks quite self-contradictory because the Nepalis have been forced to pay for the electric bills without being able to consume electricity while the government has been supplying uninterrupted power to India at a heavily subsidized price. Similarly, the 22 month-long oil scarcity in Nepal has now got far acuter than ever before. More than 85 percent vehicles have been garaged as they do not have fuel. More than 80 percent motorbike users have not been able to use their means as they do not get petrol even after 16 hours of queue-up.

At the same time, petroleum oil dealers have been hugely profiting through black market channels. The Nepalis do not doubt at all that there is an apparently understandable nexus between the black elements within the government and the money mongering dealers' association. As the artificial scarcity of oil has been imposed on the Nepalis for almost two years, the secondary reasons given propagated by the government are not credible for publics.

Publicly apparent evidence that the Nepal government is missing for the Nepali publics is that consumers' rights have been trodden upon at every step of public life. Adulterated food is sold in the market. Transport entrepreneurs forcefully exploit passengers, who are likely to be beaten badly if they speak anything.

There are laws for every violation of people's rights, but some other extrajudicial forces misuse them while the government becomes a mere spectator. In this situation, the Nepalis feel that their human rights violations reaching an alarming degree have not been documented and acted against.

No matter how long the current crisis in Nepal remains, the Nepalis will have to find a way out for a progressive Nepal against all regressive attempts.

<https://www.groundreport.com/ad-hoc-politics-rules-nepal/>

AD HOC POLITICS RULES NEPAL

feb 12, 2008 | politics, world

The majority of Nepalis, living under less than a dollar a day, genuinely desire for political and socio-economic transformation of their society. Their leaderships have betrayed them repeatedly since 1951 when the hereditary Rana rulers departed from the political frontstage of Nepal.

A major political concern in Nepal is that of ad hoc politics that has been seasonalized by different forces that rise to power at different times. This tendency among Nepali political forces is a serious hurdle to efforts for transformation. Ranas ruled Nepal for 104 years (1846-1950). They kept Nepal in complete darkness. They began selling Nepali youths for the British Empire then. The subsequent rulers continued exporting Nepali youths to fight for foreign countries as mercenaries. With a growing level of human rights consciousness, the Nepalis hired by the British Army have begun to raise their demand for equality. They have won some of the legal battles. Their pension has been raised somewhat. Because of their continuous fight for their human rights, the British government has agreed to provide them some facilities that their own soldiers get. Despite this being the situation of citizens, the Nepal government has not planned to engage the Nepali youths at home. Consequently, thousands of the Nepalis still continue going abroad for livelihood.

The leaderships of Nepali political parties, in general, have been following sensualist politics for decades. They have a deep-rooted tendency to focusing their minds and activities on accumulating much wealth in a very short period of time. They generally mobilize people not for transforming their society as a whole but for their own prosperity. When they have political power, they overshadow people's issues.

They think their personal prosperity means people's prosperity. They become active to fulfill their short term objectives. Nepali politicians' self-orientedness has resulted in the nourishment of ad hoc politics. They are highly disoriented from the long-term vision stated in their party manifestos. Their documented vision does not mean anything in practical terms. They have proved by their actions how easily they can betray people. They give promises but never bother thinking back over them.

Saying good things and doing bad things has become a self-implied truth in Nepal. Nepali politicians in general need people only when they have been expelled from power by their rival forces. They do not imagine staying out of power. They believe they are born to remain always in power and enjoy their paradise. For this, they need people's help and support. In order to get people's help and support, they shout people's slogans. But when they reach power with

people's massive support, they immediately forget who got them power in reality. This has become the general nature of Nepali political leaderships.

As politics is the central nervous system of human society, nobody can remain aloof from it. Politics refers to using power for people's development and wellbeing. But when politicians misuse power for their personal luxuries and for the interests of a limited class, it is the people who have to undergo immeasurable pain.

People work hard day and night but gain little to maintain their lives. Because of their survival crisis, they have little time to study, research and find better ways for improving their life status. Their hardships weaken them. They seek some ways of relieving themselves of their sufferings. They join or support certain parties hoping for better life. When they are not happy with certain parties, they withdraw their support or join other parties. This process continues. It is an unavoidable truth in the case of Nepal.

It is equally true that the Nepalis have not to this day found a true leadership in power. The leadership may be in the process of emergence, or it may have already emerged (who knows?). But the Nepalis have not experienced one to this day. The leaderlessness remains a severe headache for the Nepalis.

Things remain unmanaged. They are in search of a new leadership that can mobilize them towards political and socio-economic transformation. The process of political and socio-economic transformation of the Nepali society is being disrupted obviously by regressive, feudalist and status-quoist forces that have continuously ruled Nepal for decades. These forces do not want to miss their paradise. They are about to lose it. Therefore, they are making every unethical attempt to derail the process of conflict transformation in the country. They want to revoke war and violence. If the war resumes, they are the ones who benefit the most.

People are the ones who suffer the most. Such traditional leaders think politics is their private enterprise. They have lost public spirit. They want to divide people and rule them without much resistance to face. They want to import more weapons and benefit from lucrative commissions. They want to make fake bills and embezzle budgets. The genuine peace and progress of people will dry the illegal paths of their benefits. For this reason, they are the ones who throttle people and any emerging leaders trying to be different from them.

In essence, Nepali politics is ad hoc politics that is getting its water and fertilization from morally bankrupt and corrupt leaderships.

Where there is a will, there is way. People are history makers. They give birth to new leaderships. They have resources. There is no reason why one should be pessimistic in this context.

<https://www.groundreport.com/ycl-challenged-monarchist-parties-in-nepal/>

YCL CHALLENGED MONARCHIST PARTIES IN NEPAL

feb 7, 2008 | politics, world

“If the security forces of Nepal have courage, why don’t they join us in protecting our own border territories being encroached? Why is it necessary for them to raid a party’s sister wing’s offices in a warlike manner?” Suman, a youth central member of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Maoist was shouting before the young communists led by the party.

Addressing the gathering on 7 February at Ratnapark in Kathmandu, Suman said that the Nepal government should not have raided his office of the Newa Valley State Committee so as to incite for revoking war since his party was in the peace process after having deposited weapons in the UN-monitored cantonments. Suman said that the other parties loyal to the feudal monarchy were afraid of the coming constituent assembly elections scheduled for 10 April and so were indulged in conspiracies to revoke war to suppress the revolutionaries with the help of the CIA and the Indian expansionist forces. “Should the elections take place in Nepal, we are sure to win,” he said. Addressing the mass, Ganesh Pun, the Young Communist League (YCL) Chairman said that YCL cadres were prepared for war with the Nepal government forces if the government decides so. He challenged, “instead of making a sudden battalion-sized armed raid on political organizations that are engaged in peaceful politics, declare war against us, and we are ready to respond to you.”

Student leader Himat Sharma said that student and YCL youths would overwhelm all regressive forces of Nepal and would provide lead the country. Earlier the youths had rallied through the inner roads of the Kathmandu Metropolis. On the same day, reports arrived from different districts of Nepal that Maoist-affiliated youths demonstrated throughout the nation protesting the government raid on the YCL Headquarters in Kathmandu.

Most of the youth leaders were found to have used very hostile and war language in their speeches. They repeatedly challenged the government forces for war.

This shows that they are still dominated by their military ideology though they are in the process at present. This reporter felt that they should have used more intellectual and psychologically convincing language if they wanted to win more public support.

However, independent observers said that the feudal monarchist forces led by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and his daughter Sujata Koirala have tried to derail the peace process because they are extremely frightened with the possible consequences of the coming constituent assembly polls. The Nepalis have already given their street verdict of the end of the feudal monarchy through the 19-day unprecedented April uprising in 2006. The people had completely neutralized the 24-hour military curfews imposed continuously for 19 days. This was the most interesting scene of the Gurkhas' movement in the world. Nevertheless, the global monopolistic and hegemonistic forces have been trying to convert Nepal's transition phase into their own favor by trying to reverse the situation.

<https://www.groundreport.com/arms-trafficking-leaders-trying-to-revoke-war-in-nepal/>

ARMS TRAFFICKING LEADERS TRYING TO REVOKE WAR IN NEPAL

feb 6, 2008 | politics, world

One day after a special gathering and meeting of hardliner monarchists in Kathmandu, the monarchist leaders of the Nepali Congress instructed the security chiefs to rapidate suppressive actions against the Maoists all over Nepal. The Maoists have been in the peace process for two years now. Their arms are in the cantonments monitored by the UN.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, a hardliner anti-leftist Nepali Congress leader, has appointed his daughter as a senior minister without a portfolio to do all the prime ministerial jobs. The Seven Party Alliance has designated Koirala as the Head of the State though he is officially the prime minister. His daughter is a de facto prime minister since she is relieving her father of his prime ministerial burdens.

The Koirala family in Nepal has always sided with the feudal monarchy and due to their unchanged stance in favor of landlordism, the majority of working class Nepalis have suffered from feudal mechanisms in the name of democracy.

Other Nepali Congress's influential leaders Sher Bahadur Deuba, Khum Bahadur Khadka, Bijay Kumar Gachchhedhar, KB Gurung, Govinda Raj Joshi and other had have been advocating for feudal monarchy even after millions of Nepalis completely discarded the feudal monarchy from the streets during the great historical April uprising in 2006.

In the meantime, another Nepali Congress landlordist leader Dilendra Badu and his armed workers incited Maoists in a far western district Darchula. As landlords who had run away from the district ten years ago came to preach democracy for elections, angry local people protested against them. The locals showed their wrath at those Nepali Congress district leaders who suppressed the people and lived luxuriously in Kathmandu for 10 years without any concern for people. But Dilendra and his hooligans misused this protest. They called two villagers in the pretext of talks and shot them. When the villagers saw their fellows bleeding with pistol shots, they began to through stones angrily. This information is from the local sources there.

However, Kathmandu-based media owned by feudal landlords and foreigners distorted the news to make people feel the other way. This political manipulation of the mass media has helped war mongers and arms traffickers linked to the corrupt ruling circles of Nepal. Immediately following the incident, the police have raided in dozens of Maoist residences all over Nepal with a clear purpose of instigating situation towards revoking war in the country. Should the ceasefire break in any pretext, the current ruling forces that have aligned with the feudal monarchy and war-mongering arms dealers are likely to be swept away within one year. Amidst such circumstances jeopardizing the hard-earned peace process, the Maoists appear to be more resourceful and patient. Ordinary people are not so happy with their inadequate response to such pre-war preparations by feudal mechanisms.

All agree that the elections of the constituent assembly can be a better democratic option for transforming the armed conflict. If the Nepalis across the country unite for the elections of the constituent assembly, such war-favoring anti-democratic forces will meet a final blow.

<https://www.groundreport.com/conflicts-likely-to-heighten-in-nepal/>

CONFLICTS LIKELY TO HEIGHTEN IN NEPAL

feb 6, 2008 | politics, world

Conflicts in Nepal are likely to develop to a new scale because those aspiring big changes in political and socio-economic sectors and those opposing changes in the status quo will definitely have to polarize before the constituent assembly proposed for 10 April 2008. The proposed constituent assembly has been intended for state restructuring and inclusive democracy. The traditional ruling forces in Nepal are extremely reluctant to accept the need for big changes. They have a custom of picking up a few individuals from different marginalized communities and using them to strengthen the existing rule. But the coming constituent assembly, if fairly held, will harm the ruling classes of Nepal because newer forces are eager to run Nepal with a vision of accelerating transformation. Therefore, political polarization is inevitable in different forms: one for political and socio-economic transformation and the other against it.

Nepal, as the history proves, has been ruled by the feudal monarchy for almost 240 years. Political changes in the 1950s, 1970s and 1990s served only the ruling elites while millions were politically suppressed and excluded from the mainstream development process. Hundreds of leaders and workers belonging to the ruling elitist parties became surprisingly prosperous while millions starved. The frustrated people rebelled against the state under the banner of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Maoist. After a decade-long armed insurgency, the Maoist insurgents were able to spread their political influence throughout Nepal.

The Maoist insurgents, capitalizing mass poverty and people's explosive frustrations, were tactically successful in neutralizing the political influence of the then ruling parties. They got confined to palatial cities while ordinary masses began to chase them from rural parts. Ordinary people blamed on the traditional ruling parties for becoming too corrupt, immoral and power-mongers. Consequently, they lost much of the public support they had enjoyed previously in their heydays.

When King Gyanendra launched a coup d'état on 1 February 2005, the political leaders of these conservative parties were either jailed or house-detained. Their political networks were highly disrupted by the King-headed autocratic government. Yet, Maoist insurgents had got their own political, military and communication networks. The desperate conservative political parties sidelined by the feudal d'état had an idea generation in their mind. They decided to use the power of Maoist insurgents to topple the autocratic government. Their purpose was not to think of a new kind of state structure but to maintain it only by toppling the king's autocratic government. But the Maoists asked them to fight for better Nepal rather than to simply replace the king-headed government. Although, the traditional ruling parties hesitated to present themselves clearly for the sake of country's overall transformation, it was a realistically wise idea at least for them to decide to collaborate with Maoist insurgents, who actually were fighting to end

feudal monarchy. But these conservative political parties, who had betrayed the Nepalis for 50 years, were not honest.

The conservative political parties, though their influence was worriably waning among people, were extremely loyal to foreign powers. They preached liberal economy though they adopted feudal landlordist economy. Because of their empty preachings in democracy, human rights and liberal economy, the international forces were not negative to them despite their proven records of ill-governance and corruption. In the post-circumstances, Maoists, whom the US Administration has labeled as terrorists, were also seeking opportunities to use the conservative political leaderships to gain some international credibility to defeat feudal monarchy. Thus, both Maoist insurgents and anti-Maoists decided to collaborate against the feudal monarchy in direct rule. Their common goal was to topple the autocracy. While the conservative parties and insurgents took part in the same peaceful movement against the direct royal regime, ordinary people aspiring changes and peace were more excited. They enthusiastically participated in the anti-monarchy movement.

When the direct rule of monarchy was defeated by the 19-day historical April uprising (2006) marked by the defiance of curfews by the people. Poverty-stricken masses believed Nepal was going to be changed through conflict transformation.

The constituent assembly was the common core agenda for managing the armed conflicts. The previously ruling parties pronounced the constituent assembly but hesitated to adopt its essence. They misconceived that if the constituent assembly really took place, the insurgents would replace all of them in the country's politics. Consequently, they delayed the process of the interim period and baffled the long-aspired peoples' wish of the constituent assembly. However, the constituent assembly polls date has been refixed for 10 April 2008.

In this situation, the monarchist elements existing in the Nepali Congress and the Emalay parties have used their political, economic and security influences to weaken democratic forces. Especially, previously jailed corrupt leaders of the Nepali Congress have secretly sided with the feudal monarchy with a view to sharpening contradictions to a new scale so as to foil the constituent assembly efforts and the possible change measures.

Influenced by these monarchist elements, student wings affiliated to the Emalay and the Congress have been trying their best to create violence with anti-monarchy students. They are knowingly or unknowingly preparing to create an environment in which their mother parties can polarize with the feudal monarchy. The US Administration that has opposed the entry of Nepal's insurgents into the

mainstream peace process is apparently instigating the Congress and the Emalay party workers.

The Nepalis will still have to go through difficult times before they can see the reliable settlement of their crises. But they have no other alternative except to hope for the best and prepare for the worst as the ongoing conflicts are likely to get heightened due to developing confrontations between the progressive and regressive forces dressed in different forms.

<https://www.groundreport.com/foreign-paws-over-nepali-national-media/>

FOREIGN PAWS OVER NEPALI NATIONAL MEDIA

jan 29, 2008 | media & tech, world

Nepal's Minister for Information and Communication Krishna Bahadur Mahara has said no national media can be fair and people-oriented unless they are free from the grip of foreign capital and interests. Addressing a deliberative seminar entitled Autonomy, Self-Reliance and Professionalism of National Broadcasting on Tuesday in Kathmandu, Mahara, also the Nepal government spokesperson, stressed on the need for national media to seriously consider Nepal's national needs and collective public consciousness that actually guide policymakers.

At present, more than 90 percent of Nepal's economy has been controlled by Indian companies and business people. A kilo of red pomegranate worth Nepali rupees 35 in India costs more than Nepali rupees 100 in Nepal. Thousands of market commodities selling in Nepal cost far higher than in they do in India. This shows the status of Indian grip on the Nepali economy. This economic grip can be seen in the media market as well. Nepal's national television, Nepal Television give regular shows of Hindu movies while Nepali movies have been undermined deliberately. The national media give the logic of the need to sustain economically through the advertisements obtained from bulky Indian business in Nepal.

Other national broadcasting companies and publications of Nepal are not free from foreign capital. Consequently, media contents have to a considerable extent been affected.

Journalists associated with those media houses often informally complain that their professional freedom has been cared very little. They say that they are

likely to lose their job should they work independently and professionally. “Most of the administrative staff members do discourage journalistic practices so much in our media houses,” says a reporter of Nepal Television. He also complains that professionally educated and trained journalists are less respected in the national media than someone placed there through the recommendation of a bigwig. He grumbles, “Flatterers of party leaders are the heroes in our media.”

<https://www.groundreport.com/threat-to-nepals-peace-process/>

THREAT TO NEPAL’S PEACE PROCESS

jan 17, 2008 | politics, world

While die-hard feudal monarchists of Nepal have been preparing everything they can in the background to thwart conflict transformation and state restructuring processes, monarchists within the government-heading Nepali Congress have asked their top leadership not to hold joint regional mass meetings with the Maoists. The Maoists, following a decade-long armed insurgency, has entered the peace process on condition of the establishment of a multi-ethnic federal republican state structure through the Constituent Assembly polls.

The Seven Party Alliance (SPA) of which the Nepali Congress is a coalition partner, are founded on the 12-point understanding (2005), the April Uprising Verdict (2006) and the Interim Constitution (2007). As part of the peace process, the Maoists’ People’s Liberation Army (PLA) has been in the cantonments under the UN supervision for more than a year. But more surprisingly, some pro-monarchy Nepali Congress leaders have now asked their top leadership to avoid co-working with the Maoist insurgents.

Some of the identified pro-monarchy Nepali Congress leaders defending the outgoing monarchy are K. B. Gurung (General Secretary), Govinda Raj Joshi, Vijay Kumar Gachchhadar, Sujata Koirala (Prime Minister Koirala’s daughter), Khum Bahadur Khadka and Sarad Singh Bhandari. They have been stressing on not co-working with the Maoists. Several of these pro-monarchy Nepali Congress leaders had been jailed for huge corruption scandals in the past.

Their objection to having joint mass meetings with the Maoists in the Terai region generates a serious apprehension: are the Terai armed groups (the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum that massacred 29 unarmed Maoist cadres in Gaur in March 2007), God knows who runs them for what purposes, preparing to massacre

Maoists again? These pro-monarchy Congress leaders estimably may have partnered with other Terai armed and unarmed groups in order to cope with Maoists.

Nepal's monarchist forces aided by Indian Hindu extremists such as the RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the Shiva Sena and the BJP have in an underground way been moving heaven and earth to protect monarchy and its privileged positions by derailing the Constituent Assembly poll.

The coming political phenomena of Nepal will determine the nature of politics the Nepalis are going to adopt. If an undesired revocation of bloody civil war occurs, it will not only blood-shroud the country's peace process but may also catapult the current political forces into refugee camps. Political leaderships, therefore, could prevent serious losses by becoming more watchful of their own suspicious intra-party elements.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-seven-parties-inside-monarchist-cobwebs/>

NEPAL'S SEVEN PARTIES INSIDE MONARCHIST COBWEBS

jan 17, 2008 | opinion, politics

Even after Nepal's Legislative Parliament has already declared Nepal a federal republic, the current coalition government of the Seven Party alliance (SPA) has been working under untossed monarchist mechanisms.

The Nepalis have long suffered from feudal monarchy and so abolished it from the streets during their April uprising in 2006. But after millions of Nepalis abolished monarchy by continuously defying the 19-day curfews, the leading parties, mainly the Nepali Congress (NC) and the United Marxists-Leninists (UML), restored monarchy through the restoration of the House of Representatives. After the House restoration, they declared the successors to the present disreputed king. But people wanted to use the restored parliament for peacefully and legislatively ending feudal monarchy. They kept on pressurizing the dominant parties, to end monarchy through the parliament.

When the Maoist insurgents were allowed 73 seats in the Legislative Parliament, they, too, put strong pressures on the status quoist parties to move forward with a decision to formally abolish monarchy. Similarly, people, along with various

multi-ethnic communities seeking changes, put pressures on them for making Nepal a federal republic. The Nepali Congress overtly and the UML covertly resisted these efforts. However, when they feared that the overwhelming majority was going to Maoists, they finally and unwillingly, after so many inter-party struggles, agreed on the people's demand that Nepal be declared a federal republic.

Yet, many leaders within the two dominant parties have formed secret groups to foil the declaration of the republic. They have even forged an unhealthy and undeclared alliance with monarchists. People believe these types of leaders to have been those protecting smuggling and criminal gangs, including weapon contractors.

The Nepalis, familiar with the torturous justice systems, strongly believe that such anti-change leaders with criminalized mindset are still very strong. Most of the state apparatuses are believed to have been under their control. Judiciary, security, and executive mechanisms are still under monarchist grips. Even several of the newly appointed ambassadors are accountable to monarchy. The SPA has not at all changed those monarchist mechanisms.

Royalists even claim their substantial influence in the Nepal Army. The Nepal Army Chief Rukmangud Katuwal recently gave a political speech saying that the Nepal Army would reject any possibility of integrating the two armies (government's Nepal Army + Maoists' People's Liberation Army). This statement was against the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed on 21 November 2006. The peace agreement including the current Interim constitution has clearly stated that the two armies would be integrated as the final settlement of the armed insurgency in the country. But the counter statement by the government army chief shows how strong influence monarchy does have on Nepal's security mechanisms.

The Rayamajhi probe commission had blacklisted the government army chief as one of those to be punished for their crimes against humanity. The consequence of the SPA working under monarchist mechanisms can be seen openly even in the streets of Kathmandu. Monthly paid hooligans, employed under the cover of different religious volunteer youth groups and clubs, have been deployed in the streets of Kathmandu. They are active against the republican forces. They survey the offices of republican parties and their sister wings and single out the leading and influential leaders and party cadres at village and district levels. At different spots of Kathmandu, they informally organize group discussions to create pessimistic and regressive mentality among people. Their main intention seems to be to create a misbelief in people that any change in Nepal is a curse. To maintain fatalism, they organize different anti-social activities. For example, they immediately organize subversive activities when a patient dies in a hospital.

The mass media are not aloof from this royal influence. Some of the major national media houses have been making deliberate attempts to create an environment for provoking Maoist insurgents (the conflict is believed to be managed after the constituent assembly election scheduled to be held on 10 April 2008) back to war.

Some even believe that not only Nepal's monarchy but also foreign intelligence agencies must have penetrated into Nepal's media. This apprehension grows bigger as conflict transformation communication has been ignored in Nepal's mainstream media. Their news coverage, presentation style and editorial contents have not been able to disconnect themselves from monarchist mechanisms. Media contents are of status-quoist nature in general though they were historically expected to play a more transformative role in this transition period.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and UML Party Chief Madhav Kumar Nepal, both supported the Army Chief for his monarchist and anti-constitutional statement that directly countered the nation's major peace accord and the interim constitution. This shows the depth and intensity of monarchist grip even within the leading political parties that previously repeatedly served the royal rule and have now declared themselves as republican parties.

Thus, monarchist mechanisms have affected every sector, including the government and the Legislative Parliament. The Nepalis will not be dignified citizens without first dismantling all the feudal mechanisms formed by the royal rulers. It is essential for them to do so in order to map up the New Nepal, the most repeated phrase in Nepal today.

<https://www.groundreport.com/international-media-mission-in-nepal/>

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA MISSION IN NEPAL

jan 13, 2008 | media & tech, world

A dozen of international media institutions under the leadership of Hojberg of International Media Support have been visiting Nepal in connection with their

study of press freedom status in Nepal. They had strongly advocated for press freedom while they visited Nepal during King's direct rule in Nepal.

At an inaugural session of International Media Mission on Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression held in Kathmandu on 13 January, members did have formal and informal discussions on the current status of press freedom in Nepal. Pro-party journalists affiliated to the Nepali Congress Party and the UML requested the Mission members to pressure on Maoist party leaderships to respect press freedom. Their complaint was that the Maoist party cadres still kept on threatening journalists.

But independent journalists of Nepal are not happy with their ultra partisan journalism. They say independent and honest journalists are the ones most threatened by smuggling and other criminal gangs protected by the unprincipled and dishonest party leaderships. They point out to the fact that independent journalists' analyses and media criticism write-ups are generally editorially suppressed.

However, the International Media Mission is understood to be more balanced in commenting on the situation of press freedom in Nepal. However, heavily influenced by party workers under the disguise of journalists, they are likely to be ideologically tilted in the particular context of Nepal's transition politics. While speaking of the threat to journalists, no Nepali press freedom leaders are understood to have informed them on how most of the Nepali working journalists have been exploited and ill-treated by their own media owners. When they raise demand for the implementation of the Working Journalist Act, media owners suppress their voices with the help of state security apparatus. When media owners are not powerful enough to suppress physically, they misuse their own media and propagate that some other party or group has been mobilized to destroy press freedom in Nepal.

Independent journalists, who usually write under a pseudonym, think media owners have to guarantee human dignity and professional freedom to working journalists while advocating press freedom. According to them, press freedom is not for media owners to run their profitable industry only but also for journalists to work professionally and independently without fear from state and media owners. As media owners and editors appointed by them specifically serve certain partisan interests, professional journalists, who want to work independently and honestly, are suppressed.

At present, mainstream media of Nepal lacks media manpower truly representing the working class people, the majority of Nepali population. Most of the media space has been occupied by middle and elite class representatives; consequently, issues and agenda are generally interpreted as per their own class

perceptions. Nevertheless, the International Media Mission is not likely to raise anything regarding this existing reality.

<https://www.groundreport.com/new-government-vs-old-mechanisms/>

New Government Vs. Old Mechanisms

Sep 2, 2008 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

The Nepalis abolished the feudal monarchy through their long struggles. The armed insurgency led by the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist), many believe, was instrumental in cutting off the rural roots of feudal monarchy. The 19-day curfew-defying mass uprising in April 2006 across the country with heavy national and, international media coverage was not less significant as regards the people's success in abolishing the feudal monarchy.

Above all, the Nepalis, tremendous aspirations for political and socio-economic transformation coupled with their highly explosive frustrations played a vital role in delivering the most knock blow to the feudal rule.

A prominent media role in mobilizing millions of people against autocratic forces was noted during April uprising days.

However, no feudal structures were dismantled after the official feudal rulers were toppled by the people's political torrents. No illegal properties, including billions of cash, amassed by the comprador-feudal ruling elites were seized by the interim government.

The major political parties remained divided as to what how and how to do to replace the feudal regime.

Indeed, the major political parties were in what-to-do position.

Needless to talk about other political parties, the Maoist leaderships themselves appeared to have no homework as to what to do after the abolition of monarchy. It meant that they had not imagined their ascending to power so soon.

As the Maoists lead the current coalition government, they will have to face many resistance struggles representing not only various small pressure groups but also various disguised counterrevolutionary forces that are disadvantaged due to changed contexts.

The greatest barriers to any transformation-oriented policy formulation and implementation will result the existing feudal state mechanisms that baffle the most revolutionary forces.

The major political parties have not changed the leaderships in the state mechanisms. They have been working with monarchist and status quo state mechanisms.

Surprisingly, no changes have been made in judiciary and law application mechanisms.

Other constitutional mechanisms that were extremely favorable for the autocratic regime function even today the way they did before.

Many expect that the newly formed government led by Maoist Chairman Prachanda will precariously think whether to maintain old mechanisms.

Meanwhile, influential Maoist leader Mohan Baidya (Kiran) has expressed his view that Maoists are not in power though Maoist Chairman is leading the government. He alluded to the existing feudal mechanisms to be replaced by democratic and progressive mechanisms.

<https://www.groundreport.com/maoist-prime-minister-visits-maos-china/>

Maoist Prime Minister Visits Mao's China

Aug 23, 2008 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) on Saturday flew to China to participate in the concluding ceremony of the Beijing Olympics 2008.

He was invited by the Chinese government on the eve of the Olympics. But Nepal's political deadlock and the existing controversies, no head of the state or the government executive was able to join Beijing authorities on the inaugural session of the Olympics ceremony.

The then caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala went to Colombo to take part in the 15th SAARC Summit when the Beijing Olympics commenced.

Indian media have taken Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda's visit to China differently. Due to Nepal's geopolitical sensitivity, a newly appointed prime minister's first visit to India or China is understood from different perspectives.

Most usually, Nepal's previous prime ministers, as soon as they were appointed, used to be invited by India for an official visit. Past prime ministers would not start any work unless they visited India first after being appointed the head of the government.

Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda was also expected to visit India first because the Indian Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh had already informally invited him. But the concluding session of the Beijing Olympics compelled Prachanda to change the tradition. Many countries' heads of governments or states have already attended the mega-events of the Beijing Olympics.

Perhaps Indian critics and analysts might be calculating this issue from their own traditionalist perspectives.

However, the Nepalis long-suffering from oil crisis and imbalanced neighborly relations (Nepal is 99% tilted towards India, losing the opportunity to trade with China's huge market), are eager to taste some new turns in foreign policy.

Should Prime Minister Prachanda be able to develop some key outlines for balanced neighborly relations with both China and India, the Nepalis will be able to have a better long-term future.

Although the newly formed government is under the leadership of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the Communist Party of China is not likely to approve of what the Nepali counterpart proposes. There are vast differences between the Chinese and Nepali communists.

China subtly and somewhat directly adopted the capitalist path immediately after the demise of Chairman Mao of the Communist Party of China in 1976. Anti-Maoist leader Deng Xiao Ping jailed all followers of Maoism after Mao's demise.

Under the leadership of Deng Xiao Ping, China joined the mainstream US-led market economy, thus capitalist principles.

Modernization of China has been mainly attributed to Deng's path. Yet, the widespread poverty and corruption cultivated by individualism and commercialism in China have truly proved that disguised socialists have betrayed Maoist vision in China.

Contrarily, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) has said that they still are in the revolutionary process. They have termed the ongoing peace process as a component of the ongoing revolution.

Counter to this argument, ordinary Nepalis complain that their daily life is becoming more regressive and counter-revolutionary despite declarations of republic and federalism in the country.

Despite confusions and frustrations among people, Prime Minister's China visit will be fruitful as far the negative impact of Nepal's one-sided neighborly relations is concerned.

The 11-member visiting team also includes Prime Minister Prachanda's wife Sita Poudel, Media Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara and Foreign Secretary Gyan Chandra Acharya.

Dahal will meet his counterpart Wen Jiabao and President Hu Jin Tao during his China visit. He will be back home on 27 August.

<https://www.groundreport.com/international-community-welcomes-maoist-premier-prachanda/>

International Community Welcomes Maoist Premier Prachanda

Aug 15, 2008 | [Politics](#), [World](#)

Indian Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh, the US Administration, the European Union, and Japan have welcomed Nepal's Maoist ex-rebel commander Prachanda immediately after he was elected as the country's first prime minister the abolition of the 240-year monarchy.

They congratulated him and expressed their belief that the bilateral relations would be better in his tenure.

Indian Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh said that he was eager to work with Prachanda to improve the Indo-Nepal relations. He expressed his interest in meeting Prachanda as soon as possible.

US, European Union and Japanese officials also expressed their support to Prachanda and believed that Nepal would be better under his dynamic leadership.

Prachanda, the Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist), with the help of two other parties, defeated the Nepali Congress prime ministerial candidate Sher Bahadur Deuba by 351 more votes.

Prachanda obtained 464 votes against the 113 votes secured by Sher Bahadur Deuba.

The Nepali Congress that ruled Nepal for many years did not want to join the national government under the former rebel leadership. The old and conservative party wanted to maintain its traditional rule, mostly opposed by the working class people of the country.

Many think Prachanda does not have an easy time as prime minister because Nepal has fallen into anarchy, ill-governance, all-pervasive corruption and criminalization of politics with political nexus with criminal gangs and networks).

However, should the nation go ahead with the responsibility of drafting a new federal republican constitution and bringing about qualitative approaches for the nation's socio-economic transformation, the nation is likely to amaze the world within a decade.

The Nepalis are equally watchful against any foreign interference because of the country's geopolitical sensitivity.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepals-transport-entrepreneurs-defy-governments-order-to-reduce-fare/>

Nepal's transport entrepreneurs defy government's order to reduce fare

Dec 16, 2008 [Politics](#), [World](#)

National Transport Entrepreneurs Association Nepal (NTEAN), the umbrella for all the private sector transport entrepreneurs, has challenged the Maoist-led government by defying the new transport fare rate.

Association leader Dinesh Bhandari has publicly announced he and his association alone have the authority to fix transport fare and not the government. He has even instructed bus owners not to follow the government order for decreasing the transport by 13 percent.

The Nepali government yesterday decided to decrease the transport fare by 13 percent as the oil prices in the international market have sharply gone down. Earlier, the government declared a down in fare by six percent, still defied by the entrepreneurs.

The entrepreneurs have further disobeyed the other seven percent down in fare announced by the government yesterday.

This shows that the Nepali consumers are extremely vulnerable and prone to conflicts. Vehicle owners have already begun to beat and mistreat their passengers; however, the government has not been able to take appropriate actions though it has arrested and released a few drivers and owners.

In Nepal, business tycoons and entrepreneurs control the government.

So far, business owners have not implemented the government's decision of a minimum remuneration standard for workers.

Most Nepalis belong to one-dollar-a-day category.

<https://www.groundreport.com/nepal-and-adb-sign-in-a-loan-document/>

Nepal and ADB sign in a loan document

Dec 15, 2008 [Politics](#), [World](#)

Nepal government and the Asian Development Bank have signed in a loan paper in Kathmandu today.

The Bank has decided to lend Nepal a sum of eight billion and 241 million rupees to be used for local autonomy and community development, the agenda preferred by the bank.

According to reports, the money will be spent on advocacy on community issues, publication of reports, seminars and other awareness programs. However, it is not known what percent of the money will go to the ADB experts and consultants and to Nepali experts and consultants.

Likewise, the interest rate is not known.

2007

<https://www.groundreport.com/foreign-intervention-shaping-up-in-nepal/>

FOREIGN INTERVENTION SHAPING UP IN NEPAL

dec 23, 2007 | politics

The Nepali Congress and the UML, Nepal's two major parliamentary parties, have disagreed on the agenda of round table conference and proportional representation election system demanded by the overwhelming majority of the grassroots Nepalis. Following several lingering formal and informal sessions of discussions among political leaders, the two major parties, openly at the request of Chinese, Indian and American officials, have collaborated to still prolong the crisis. The sources having communication access to the Nepali Congress and the UML categorically claim that both the parties do not have an intention of holding

the Constituent Assembly polls before ensuring first that the Maoist influence has been considerably undersized. They have also expressed their pleasure at the fate that the Maoists have faced in the Terai region where the Madhesi Forum and dozens of other armed groups under the protection of the government security mechanisms and foreign intelligence operatives have been able to bring the former rebels to the brink.

Nepal's mainstream media have glamorized on Sunday that the Maoists have completely surrendered to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala by abandoning the people's demand for the all-proportional representation election system. But the Maoists have denied any agreement on the issue. According to the *Deshantar*, a pro-Nepali Congress weekly, Maoists have agreed with the prime minister by canceling their fully proportional representation election system. But the daily newspaper *Jandisha* in its lead story quotes Ram Bahadur Thapa (Badal), an influential senior Maoist leader according to whom there has been no agreement on the issue of the proportional representation election system. However, most of the leaders talking to the Nepali mass media have at least admitted that they have little disagreement on the issue of monarchy. They have hinted at their general understanding over the abolition of monarchy sooner or later.

Meanwhile Ganesh Man Pun, a Maoist-led Young Communist League leader, has warned that the Nepalis might need to go to war if Nepal's territorial encroachment from the Indian side continues. According to Dang-based journalist Dilli Malla, Pun, speaking to a mass there on 21 December said that if the current government remains indifferent to the foreign intervention and border encroachment, it might be necessary for the Nepalis to launch not only the mass movement but also a national defense war. While Maoist leaders have been warning like this, Terai groups affiliated to various armed criminal groups of bordering India have been holding secret merging talks. They have already decided to regionalize Nepal's politics. Many of them have clearly expressed their desire to be separatist leaders. The Nepalis, sandwiched between almost 2.5 billion population, have been awaiting an intensive transformation of their 10-year long armed insurgency. It will still take much time to see the clear shapes of the country's future politics.

<https://www.groundreport.com/indo-us-strategy-in-south-asia/>

INDO-US STRATEGY IN SOUTH ASIA

Those interested in international relations are familiar with the age-old Middle East plight. Different forces active there have been exercising their own interests while to them the value of human life has meant little. Among the prominent players in the Middle East, the United States has clearly sided with Israel, the chief buyer of US weapons and other military products. Although decades have gone along with innumerable efforts for peace in the region, the industry of massacres and violence has continuously ascended its ladder. The Arab forces have been divided and ruled.

The Pentagon has openly sold to Israel satellite-guided bombs worth billions of dollars. It has sold similar weapons to Saudi Arabia as well. In the the region, babies get born insecure. If they survive the early years of birth they grow insecure. During their growth years, they are forced to live insecure. And should they escape death in the first half of their mid-youth, they are forced to take one-another's life as per the patterns under which they are structured.

A more or less similar situation of human insecurity exists in different parts of the world, be they in Asia, Africa or Latin America and definitely in the United States, where there is no calculation and proper information dissemination of how many children, youths and seniles are killed daily in dozens of cities and counties. Amidst a growing scale of international insecurity and militarism, South Asians today have a logical worry. They definitely do not want their region to fall into the impasse of a Middle East kind. They do not want an automated death machine to be implanted into their own heads and their region, already weakened through political instability and fundamentalism.

Indeed, South Asia is trapped between home-grown crises and foreign impositions. Despite being a world's large democracy constitutionally and procedurally, India has yet to democratize itself. All-pervasive corruption, violence, murders and robberies can never be considered the theories of democracy. Similarly, the unhindered de-humanizing practices of caste untouchability and discriminations cannot be synonymized with democratic characteristics. How can the existing caste apartheid in India and Nepal be understood as a local issue in the age of information and communication revolution in the global village? Such contradictions keep on dividing the majority of people, who, at the same time nurture their mutual misconceptions. They ultimately further exacerbate conflicts and violence. It is amidst such sharp contradictions that fundamentalism finds a fertile soil. In particular, intractable conflicts even invite foreign intervention. So many political and socio-economic contradictions existing in India have a great degree of commonness among the contradictions in other SAARC countries. This situation should be considered

with much importance since the US Administration has sought to build up its intelligence base in the region.

The US Administration has obviously viewed China and India with special attention. Almost all American think tanks most usually depict China as the closest challenge for the US in the 21st century. Several US senators voice for designing appropriate strategies to curb the growing Chinese influence in the international arena. This concern among US journalists and analysts indicates that the US cannot remain without doing something to neutralize or at least to undersize the Chinese influence. For this, the US Administration requires a suitable geopolitical station, and such a place cannot be other than South Asia. The US tactics based on regional cooperation and soft-cornered negotiation-based approaches can be seen in South Asia. It, on the hand, collaborates with India for the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, on the other, uses Pakistani political structures for establishing the US command in Afghanistan. Quite scantily discussed in this context is the geopolitical significance of Nepal where the US Administration is suspected of planning to setup a major regional infrastructure for the operations of intelligence and civil-clothed US security forces.

What is largely glamorized but little studied in this context is the case of Pakistan. Power-mongering Pakistani President Musharraf has facilitated a ground both for domestic fundamentalists and the US Administration. Today, Musharraf has become a person picked by the US Administration. Tomorrow, one of the current US-hunted fundamentalist leader in that country may be the US choice if genuine democracy based on the original aspirations of the Pakistanis comes to the fore with people's independent and integrated struggles. Because such a democracy established through people's original efforts may be incompatible with the Pentagon patterns. In this context, the world generally knows how the CIA nourished Iran's Shah, Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Saudi Arabia's Bin Laden for use purposes.

Today, Musharraf may appear a hero to many. It has been historically evident that the US Administration has been campaigning for preparing a battalion of its lackeys from among political leaders of all the countries. India, though it appears to be a global power, is a nation highly plighted by its scattered civil wars, armed separatism and social cruelties that have maintained extreme disparity and poverty. Medieval evils such as caste apartheid have weakened its collective strength. Informed about this, the US Administration, without touching such issues, has adopted a silent strategy of cooperating with India in order to bring the whole South Asian region under its control. Once the region is under full US control, it will be much easier for the Pentagon to cope with the Chinese politically, economically and militarily. Only intelligence exchange and logistical cooperation will not suffice for the US need in South Asia. What it requires as

soon as possible is a base equipped with multiple facilities, including military and intelligence facilities.

India does not appear to favor the idea of allowing any US base within the Indian territory. As Nepal's political leaders, including those heading security mechanisms, generally appear prepared even for treason, American intelligence operatives are openly working since the 1990s. It has been customary for the US officials, whenever they visit Nepal, to deliver free political speeches with their instructions on Nepal's political and constitutional issues. It has equally been too common for the Kathmandu-based US ambassador to frequently meet Nepal's prime minister and security chiefs. Basically, any foreign power is not to be blamed. Those practicing the politics of treason within the country are to be blamed primarily. As this situation is much more favorable for the US Administration to be active in South Asia, it wants to maintain it. Therefore, it is natural for the White House to make every attempt to prevent any new political force or leadership to enter Nepal's mainstream politics unless there is a guarantee that the newly entering force or political organization will serve the US interests without a question. In this context, the US Administration will not want to miss Nepal, the most sensitive geopolitical hub of South Asia. Nepal being between the two nations with a major population of almost 2.5 billion, other European nations have equally begun to analyze and interpret Nepal and her issues at a deeper level.

This shows the geopolitical significance of Nepal in the international arena. Perhaps, China through its silent diplomacy, has been examining the ongoing in South Asia. However, Chinese officials have not made their analysis explicit regarding such issues. As to Bhutan, the US Administration has adopted a policy of not irritating India through any different Bhutan policy. It seems to be pursuing the usual policy as in the case of Nepal. Bhutan, though under heavy Indian influence, does not want to miss US favor, especially as regards to the preservation of monarchical autocracy there. The Bhutanese of Nepali origin are the greatest headaches not only to feudal Bhutanese rulers but also to the White House and New Delhi. The reason is clear: the Bhutanese of Nepali origin have been fighting for democracy and human rights within Bhutan for 16 years. India and America have never expressed their support to this democratic movement as they used to extend their support to the democratic movement elsewhere. Because of the protection of Bhutanese dictators by India and America, they have openly dared to violate human rights by expelling the vociferous Bhutanese citizens, who have lived a torturous life in refugee camps in Nepal for 16 years.

Currently, the White House and New Delhi have found one formula for neutralizing the Bhutanese people's movement for democracy and human rights: to let thousands of Bhutanese emigrate to US, Canada, Australia, Spain and some other European nations. It means that the background masters of Bhutanese feudal rulers have thought of sending Bhutanese refugees far away. If

they stay within South Asia, they will not stop giving a headache to the rulers within and outside Bhutan. Although this approach appears humanitarian, most of the Bhutanese themselves, especially people of middle and older age groups, have opposed this as a piece of conspiracy against their repatriation. Instead of deciding to divide the Bhutanese refugees like this, they could pressurize the Bhutanese rulers to establish democracy in Bhutan and repatriate their citizens. Nepal, in the context of Bhutanese refugee issue, has not produced any independent policy. The ruling elites of Nepal have a habit of deciding everything at the gesture of India and America. Therefore, the government of Nepal has supported the US plan of de-Bhutanizing the Bhutanese refugees of Nepali origin. Instead, it could provide Nepali citizenship to Bhutanese refugees and include them in the mainstream development of Nepal. Nepal could also call upon all the Bhutanese of Nepali origin living in Bhutan to join Nepal as citizens. But becoming silent spectators of human rights violations and supporting de-nationalization campaign by the third country is equivalent to a crime against humanity.

But Nepali leaderships, recklessly bargaining their national sovereignty, are still lingering through political deadlocks within home. This seems to heighten the sovereignty crisis. Growing Pentagon influence in India and Pakistan shows the level of sovereignty crisis in South Asia. The peoples of the region have no other alternative except to join hands in preserving their national sovereignties.